

Summary of Public Health Reporting for 2021

Reporting Procedures and Resources

All public health reporting documentation and guidance for reportable communicable and environmental diseases in Tennessee is available on the Reportable Diseases website at <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/reportable-diseases.html>.

Reporting Methods and Requirements

Healthcare Facilities/Providers and Laboratories should report using one of the following methods:

1. Report Via Fax

The PH-1600 may be faxed or emailed directly to the local or regional health office at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/localdepartments.html>, or to the Communicable and Environmental Diseases and Emergency Preparedness (CEDEP) Division at the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) at (615) 741-3857.

2. Report Online

Online reporting for all conditions is completed in the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) Base System (NBS): <https://hssi.tn.gov/auth/login>. Healthcare providers and laboratories will log in to NBS to enter patient demographics, the reportable condition, facility and provider information, and attach lab report information. Reporters can request an account at <https://redcap.health.tn.gov/redcap/surveys?s=8L7CMWHN4M>. If you encounter problems signing up, please email ceds.informatics@tn.gov.

Laboratories have the additional reporting option:

3. Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR)

Requirements for electronic laboratory reporting are available at <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/laboratory-reporting.html>.

Hospitals

Reporting antibiotic use in acute care hospitals through the National Healthcare Safety Network's Antibiotic Use and Resistance Module will be required beginning in January 1, 2022. This will be a phased-in approach based on hospital bed size. As this requirement will require some planning for hospitals to implement, the Tennessee Department of Health is advising of this future requirement several years in advance to allow adequate preparation. [For more information: <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/hai.html>]

2021 Reportable Disease Documentation in Tennessee (For Healthcare Providers and Laboratories)

Important changes in 2021 include:

Healthcare Providers/Facilities Only:

- Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children is now explicitly reportable.
- In the 2020 Commissioner's Letter we notified you that reporting antibiotic use in acute care hospitals through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) will be required beginning in

January 1, 2021. This requirement has now been delayed until January 1, 2022 due to the burden of the COVID pandemic on healthcare facilities. As this will require some planning, we are advising hospitals of this in advance to allow adequate preparation. [For more information: <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/hai.html>]

- COVID-19 antibody results are no longer reportable.

Laboratories Only:

- Colistin-resistant gram-negative bacteria are not explicitly reportable but are now contained under the general heading of pan-unsusceptible organisms.
- COVID-19 antibody results are no longer reportable.

Healthcare Providers/Facilities

- Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children is now explicitly reportable.

2021 Reportable Diseases in Tennessee: Detailed Laboratory Guidance

For 2021, the Detailed Laboratory Guidance document has been updated with the following changes:

- Colistin-resistant gram-negative bacteria are not explicitly reportable but are now contained under the general heading of pan-unsusceptible organisms.
- Coronavirus disease caused by SARS CoV-2 laboratory criteria have been added to the detailed laboratory guidance. These were previously maintained in stand-alone reporting documents.
- Additional details have been added to the Laboratory Tests and Results to Report to Public Health for the following pathogens:
 - *Enterobacterales previously called Enterobacteriaceae family*
 - *Enterococcus species*
 - *Meningitis, Other Bacterial*
 - *Poliovirus*
 - *Now immediately notifiable*