



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

5/11/2017

As of July 1, 2017, directors of Maryland medical laboratories and directors of laboratories located outside Maryland that perform medical laboratory tests on any specimen acquired from a person in Maryland (collectively referred to hereafter as “directors of medical laboratories”) are required to report all positive *Clostridium difficile* cases to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Infectious Diseases Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau (IDEORB).

Specifically, directors of medical laboratories shall report any test that is positive for *C. difficile*.

*Clostridium difficile* cases meeting the above definition should be reported to the DHMH IDEORB in one of the following ways:

- 1 If a laboratory is already in Production or Test for Electronic Laboratory reporting (ELR) to DHMH, results should be submitted to DHMH directly through the existing automated ELR feed.
- 2 If a laboratory submits laboratory results to the Maryland Health Information Exchange (CRISP) but has not yet started the Test process for ELR, or if the ELR feed has not yet entered the Quality Assurance phase of ELR onboarding, the laboratory will work with CRISP to create a temporary electronic *C. difficile* feed that will submit the positive *C. difficile* results from the existing laboratory feed until the laboratory starts sending results through ELR.
- 3 If a laboratory is currently unable to submit results electronically must report all positive *C. difficile* results must be reported at least monthly until they can send the reports electronically by one of the two methods noted above. The report should include the following information: date of report; patient name; patient date of birth; patient sex; patient residence; ordering provider; lab name; lab accession number; specimen collection date; specimen source; testing method. Reporting via ELR is required as soon as possible; however, until that is possible, the monthly line list containing the requisite information should be faxed to 410-669-4215.

Questions about this requirement overall can be directed to the DHMH Infectious Diseases Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau at 410-767-5928.

Authority: Annotated Code of Maryland, Health-General Article, §§18-103(a), 18-102(b), and 2-104(m)