

Laboratory Reporting Responsibilities

All medical laboratories in San Mateo County must report test results of public health significance to the Health Department so we can issue appropriate public health alerts and coordinate intervention. This is required by California state law (CCR Title 17, §2505). **Providers are responsible for making reports even if they believe a lab has already reported an infection.** The list below describes the role of laboratories.

What to report

The laboratory is required to report the following information:

- Date specimen was obtained and source (blood, sputum, etc.)
- Specimen accession or unique ID #
- Lab findings for tests performed and date of result
- Patient ID number
- Patient info (name, gender, DOB, address, phone)
- Health care provider who ordered test (name, address, phone)

Special reporting for E. coli O157:H7 , Shigella, & Salmonella

The Public Health Lab will need to examine the culture that confirmed the infection.


Special reporting for Malaria

The Public Health Lab will examine the blood film slides to confirm. If you ask upfront, we'll return the slides to you.

Special reporting for Tuberculosis

Please see special requirements for TB specimens on page II.A.7.

Phone or fax within 1 working day


 (650) 573-2346

 (650) 573-2919 fax

If results indicate:

Chlamydial infections
Cryptosporidiosis
Diphtheria
Encephalitis (arboviral)
Escherichia coli O157:H7 infection
Gonorrhea
Hepatitis A - *acute infection* by HAV IgM antibody test or positive antigen test
Hepatitis B - *acute infection* by IgM anti-HBc antibody test or positive antigen test
Listeriosis
Malaria
Measles (Rubeola) - *acute infection* by IgM antibody test or positive viral antigen test
Rabies (animal or human)
Salmonella
Shigella
Syphilis
Tuberculosis
Typhoid
Vibrio infections

Phone Disease Control and Prevention immediately!

 (650) 573-2346 workdays

  (650) 363-4981 for after hours emergencies

If results indicate:

Anthrax
Botulism
Brucellosis
Plague (animal or human)
SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome)
Smallpox
Tularemia
Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (Ebola, Crimean-Congo, Lassa, or Marburg viruses)

Medical labs are in the position to sound an early-warning alarm for a number of infectious diseases.
