

HIV Infection and AIDS

State of California regulations require that all health care providers and medical laboratories report cases of HIV/AIDS to the local health department.

Diagnosing HIV and AIDS

A diagnosis of AIDS is determined by the presence of HIV infection in conjunction with one or more specific opportunistic infections or clinical conditions, or with a CD4 count < 200 cells/mm³. A person may not meet the definition of AIDS for years after initial HIV infection.

Lab tests that indicate HIV infection include, but are not limited to:

- HIV antibody (ELISA with confirmatory Western Blot)
- Quantitative HIV viral load

Changes in HIV/AIDS Reporting

In California, AIDS cases have been reportable by name since 1983. HIV cases have been reportable since 2002. Initially the state used a coded non-name HIV reporting method. Beginning in 2006, the HIV reports changed to a name-based system in order to allow more exact tracking of trends. In order to provide an extra measure of confidentiality, reports should be sent by mail, not by fax.

Reports are made on the HIV/AIDS Confidential Case Report Forms (DHS 8641). There are separate forms for children ≤ 12 and adults ≥ 13 years old.

Why is reporting of HIV and AIDS mandatory?

Our public health department is charged with helping local HIV/AIDS patients and designing effective prevention programs. Your reports are the foundation for accurate statistics on the disease. Data on HIV prevalence are used to identify areas that need more resources for education, prevention, and treatment.

What about anonymous HIV testing sites?

Sites that offer anonymous testing (i.e., the patient is not identified by name anywhere in the site's records) will not be required to report positive HIV results. When the patient returns for results the staff will advise him or her to obtain care for the infection as soon as possible, and the report should be made by the health care provider that treats the patient.

Are there legal ramifications for health care providers who fail to report confirmed HIV cases?


Yes, every person charged with a duty under the HIV Reporting Regulations who willfully neglects or refuses to report in accordance with the regulations is guilty of a misdemeanor under Health and Safety Code Section 100182 and may be subject to prosecution.

Report all new cases within 1 week by phone or mail, not by fax

 **(650) 573-2346**

 **Disease Control and Prevention
San Mateo County Health Dept.
225 37th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403**

Phone us with any questions.

 **Please do not use the regular Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) to report HIV.**

Instead, use the specific HIV/AIDS Confidential Case Report forms on the following pages.