



Dear Colleague:

Georgia physicians, laboratories, and other health care providers are required by law (O.C.G.A. §31-12-2) to report patients with the diseases or conditions listed on the [Notifiable Disease Poster](#). Both lab-confirmed and clinical diagnoses are reportable within the specified time.

Reporting enables appropriate public health follow-up for patients, helps identify outbreaks, and provides a better understanding of disease trends in Georgia. Per the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia (511-2-1-.02) reporters are expected to provide additional information to the Department concerning cases for which they have submitted laboratory specimens.

The State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SendSS) is the secure, web-based repository for notifiable disease reporting and case information. Health care providers and laboratories can create SendSS accounts at <https://sendss.state.ga.us/sendss/login.screen>. Reports can also be made by telephone, fax or mailed to health districts, or email the DPH Epidemiology Section (<https://dph.georgia.gov/disease-reporting>).

Successful electronic lab report (ELR) messaging to DPH **does not** fulfill notifiable disease reporting requirements. Notifiable disease case reports require numerous variables in order to facilitate epidemiologic investigation. While ELR data can contribute important information to the process, additional patient information not included in ELR messages is often essential and can generally only be obtained from health care providers.

DPH continues to develop the integration of ELR data into SendSS notifiable disease case reports and is at varying stages of implementation for each disease. DPH is working to determine how ELR data can best improve the communication, notification and management of each of the notifiable diseases for all stakeholders. Until further notice, it is critical that laboratories and health care providers continue their established disease reporting practices.

If you have any questions, please contact your district epidemiologist (<https://dph.georgia.gov/public-health-districts>) or the Epidemiology Section at DPH (404-657-2588).

Sincerely,

Cherie Drenzek, D.V.M., M.S.
State Epidemiologist and Chief Science Officer