

(Effective until January 1, 2023)

WAC 246-101-205 Responsibilities and duties of the laboratory director. (1) Laboratory directors shall:

(a) Notify the local health department where the patient resides, or, in the event that patient residence cannot be determined, the local health department in which the ordering health care provider practices, or the local health department in which the laboratory operates, regarding:

(i) Positive preliminary test results and positive final test results of notifiable conditions specified as notifiable to the local health department in Table Lab-1.

(ii) Positive preliminary test results and positive final test results of conditions specified as notifiable by the local health officer within that health officer's jurisdiction.

(b) Notify the department of conditions designated as notifiable to the local health department when:

(i) A local health department is closed or representatives of the local health department are unavailable at the time a positive preliminary test result or positive final test result of an immediately notifiable condition occurs; or

(ii) A local health department is closed or representatives of the local health department are unavailable at the time an outbreak or suspected outbreak of communicable disease occurs.

(c) Notify the department of positive preliminary test results or positive final test results for conditions designated notifiable to the department in Table Lab-1.

(d) Notify the department of nonelevated blood lead levels on a monthly basis.

(e) Submit specimens for conditions noted in Table Lab-1 to the Washington state public health laboratories or other laboratory designated by the state health officer for diagnosis, confirmation, storage, or further testing.

(f) Ensure that positive preliminary test results and positive final test results for notifiable conditions of specimens referred to other laboratories for testing are correctly notified to the correct local health department or the department. This requirement can be satisfied by:

(i) Arranging for the referral laboratory to notify either the local health department, the department, or both; or

(ii) Forwarding the notification of the test result from the referral laboratory to the local health department, the department, or both.

(g) Cooperate with public health authorities during investigation of:

(i) Circumstances of a case or suspected case of a notifiable condition or other communicable disease; and

(ii) An outbreak or suspected outbreak of disease.

(2) Laboratory directors may designate responsibility for working and cooperating with public health authorities to certain employees as long as designated employees are:

(a) Readily available; and

(b) Able to provide requested information in a timely manner.

(3) By July 1, 2011, when referring a specimen to another laboratory for a test for a notifiable condition, laboratory directors shall provide the laboratory with the following information for each test referral:

- (a) Patient name;
 - (b) Full address of patient, or patient zip code at a minimum, when available in laboratory database;
 - (c) Date of birth or age of patient, when available in laboratory database;
 - (d) Sex of patient, when available in laboratory database;
 - (e) Name of the principal health care provider;
 - (f) Telephone number of the principal health care provider;
 - (g) Address of the principal health care provider, when available;
 - (h) Type of test requested;
 - (i) Type of specimen; and
 - (j) Date of specimen collection.
- (4) By January 1, 2013, laboratory databases must have the ability to receive, store, and retrieve all of the data elements specified in subsection (3)(a) through (j) of this section.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 11-02-065, § 246-101-205, filed 1/4/11, effective 2/4/11; WSR 00-23-120, § 246-101-205, filed 11/22/00, effective 12/23/00.]

(Effective January 1, 2023)

WAC 246-101-205 Duties—Laboratory directors. (1) A laboratory director shall:

- (a) Submit laboratory reports:
 - (i) To the local health jurisdiction or the department as required in Table Lab-1 of WAC 246-101-201, and under the requirements of WAC 246-101-220, 246-101-225, and this section; and
 - (ii) To the local health jurisdiction as required by the local health officer within that health officer's jurisdiction under WAC 246-101-505 (4) (d).
 - (b) Notify the department of conditions designated as notifiable to the local health jurisdiction when:
 - (i) A local health jurisdiction is closed or representatives of the local health jurisdiction are unavailable at the time a presumptive or final test result of an immediately notifiable condition occurs; or
 - (ii) The notifiable test result pertains to a patient who resides outside of and is visiting Washington state as indicated by information provided by the requesting health care provider or health care facility.
 - (c) Submit specimens required in Table Lab-1 of WAC 246-101-201 under the requirements of WAC 246-101-210 and 246-101-215, and this section;
 - (d) Cooperate with public health authorities during investigation of:
 - (i) The circumstances of a case of a notifiable condition; or
 - (ii) An outbreak or suspected outbreak of disease.
- (2) A laboratory director may designate responsibility for working and cooperating with public health authorities to certain employees as long as designated employees are:
- (a) Readily available; and
 - (b) Able to provide requested information in a timely manner.

(3) A laboratory director may refer a specimen of a notifiable condition to a reference laboratory for testing.

(4) When a laboratory director refers a specimen of a notifiable condition to a reference laboratory for testing, the laboratory director shall:

(a) Provide the reference laboratory with Table Lab-1 of WAC 246-101-201, 246-101-220, 246-101-225, and this section; and the following information for each specimen:

- (i) Patient's first and last name;
- (ii) Patient's physical address including zip code;
- (iii) Patient's date of birth;
- (iv) Patient's sex;
- (v) Patient's ethnicity, as required in WAC 246-101-011(4);
- (vi) Patient's race, as required in WAC 246-101-011(5);
- (vii) Patient's preferred language, as required in WAC 246-101-011(6);
- (viii) For hepatitis B virus tests, pregnancy status (pregnant, not pregnant, or unknown) of patients twelve to fifty years of age;
- (ix) Patient's best contact telephone number;
- (x) For blood lead level tests, medicaid status of patients less than seventy-two months of age;
- (xi) Requesting health care provider's name;
- (xii) Requesting health care provider's phone number;
- (xiii) Address where patient received care;
- (xiv) Name of submitting laboratory;
- (xv) Telephone number of submitting laboratory;
- (xvi) Specimen type;
- (xvii) Specimen collection date;
- (xviii) Date laboratory received specimen; and
- (xix) Test method requested.

(b) Ensure the laboratory report is submitted appropriately either by:

- (i) Arranging for the reference laboratory to submit the laboratory report under Table Lab-1 of WAC 246-101-201, 246-101-220, and 246-101-225; or
- (ii) Submitting the laboratory report under Table Lab-1 of WAC 246-101-201, 246-101-220, and 246-101-225.

(5) A laboratory director may provide health information, demographic information, or infectious or noninfectious condition information in addition to the information required under this chapter when the provider or facility determines that the additional information will aid the appropriate public health authority in protecting and improving the public's health through prevention and control of infectious and noninfectious conditions.

(6) When a laboratory director submits information under subsection (4) of this section, they shall submit the information under the requirements of WAC 246-101-220.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050, 70.28.032, and 70.24.130. WSR 21-11-040 and 22-01-175, § 246-101-205, filed 5/12/21 and 12/17/21, effective 1/1/23. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 11-02-065, § 246-101-205, filed 1/4/11, effective 2/4/11; WSR 00-23-120, § 246-101-205, filed 11/22/00, effective 12/23/00.]