

## Overview: What Laboratories Need to Know

Laboratory-based reporting is the route by which hepatitis B surface antigen-positive (HBsAg-positive) cases are identified. Since 1988, Louisiana has required laboratories to report all HBsAg-positive test results to the ordering physician and within 24 hours to the local health department (LHD) in the parish where the patient resides. Since the implementation of the Louisiana Infectious Disease Surveillance System (IDRISS), laboratories are now able to electronically submit HBsAg-positive test results directly to the state health department.

The goal of the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP) is to ensure that all HBsAg-positive pregnant women are identified and their lab results are reported in a timely manner. To assist in achieving this goal:

1. Report all HBsAg-positive test results (**including repeat testing, even if the results have been previously reported**) within 24 hours to the State Health Infectious Disease or Perinatal Hepatitis B Program, by the following methods:

**A. Faxing** a copy of the HBsAg-positive result (Perinatal Hepatitis B Program – fax (504) 838-5206), or

**B. Mail** – Positive Hepatitis B Perinatal cases may be reported through the mail using the "Perinatal Hepatitis B Surveillance Form". Copy the form as needed. Complete and mail or fax to:

**Immunization Program – Perinatal Hepatitis B Program**

Louisiana Office of Public Health  
PO Box 60630  
New Orleans, La 70160  
(504) 838-5300 (telephone)  
(504) 838-5206 (confidential fax)

**C. Phone** - Reports positive perinatal cases should be made by phone to the number above, or to your regional Immunization or Infectious Disease Program staff.

**D. Electronic** – Positive perinatal HBsAG (+) cases can be reported electronically through the Infectious Disease Reporting Information System (**IDRIS**), operated by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program. For information on setting up IDRIS reporting at your facility, contact:

**Christina Romalewski**  
Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program  
(504) 568-8302  
[Christine.romalewski@la.gov](mailto:Christine.romalewski@la.gov)

**E.** Required laboratory reporting of positive HBsAg (+) cases can be done electronically or by mail. For information on [Perinatal Hepatitis B Laboratory Surveillance](#) and assistance in setting up electronic reporting, contact:

**Rashad Arcement**  
STD/HIV Program  
1450 Poydras St, Suite 2136  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
(504) 568-3384 or (504) 568-7474  
[Rashad.arcement@la.gov](mailto:Rashad.arcement@la.gov)

2. Continue to report all HBsAg test results to the ordering physician's office.

All laboratories that provide HBsAg testing of pregnant women should use an FDA-licensed or approved HBsAg test and should perform testing according to the manufacturer's labeling, including testing of initially reactive specimens with a licensed neutralizing confirmatory test (MMWR 12/23/05, 54 (RR16); 1-23).

If you have any questions, please call the PHBPP staff at 504-838-5300.

**Louisiana Communicable Disease Rules, LAC 51:II.105, §113. Laboratory Reporting Requirements [formerly paragraph 2:008]**, AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40:4(A)(2) and R.S. 40:5(10). HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, LR 28:1214 (June 2002), amended LR 32:1052 (June 2006); a clinical laboratory shall report in a timely manner consistent with the requirements of the diseases/conditions Class described in §105 and shall state the name, date of birth, sex, race, usual residence, specimen identification code/ID and test results of the tested individual as well as the name of the physician or person submitting the specimen to the health department, laboratory evidence of any serious infection specified in Public Health Sanitary Code, Part II, Chapter 1, §105.

**Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA):** Sharing of public health information (PHI) with public health authorities is addressed in §164.512(b): (1) Permitted disclosures: A covered entity may disclose protected health information for the public health activities and purposes to: (i) A public health authority that is authorized by law to collect or receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, including but not limited to, the reporting of disease, injury, vital events such as birth or death, and the conduct of public health surveillance, public health investigations, and public health interventions.