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Health Secretary

Justin J. Davis
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ORDER

In accordance with the provisions of **Legislative Rule 64CSR7, Reportable Diseases, Events and Conditions**, §3.1.a., the Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health, (BPH), hereby approves and files the following changes to the Reportable Disease Rule.

Category §3.5.b.7

DELETE: SARS-CoV-2 Category III.A disease reportable by facilities, providers and laboratories to the local health department within 72 hours.

Category §11.1

ADD: SARS-CoV-2, laboratory evidence of acute infection by polymerase chain reaction only

Rationale: January 2, 2025, The Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) updated the standardized surveillance case definition for SARS-CoV-2, to align with other endemic respiratory viruses, discontinuation of national notification, and to simplify laboratory criteria reporting and case classifications.

Category §3.4.b and §3.4.d

ADD: *Candida auris* (*C.auris*)

Rationale: *C.auris* was classified as an urgent threat in the 2019 Antibiotic Resistance Threat Report. Some strains are resistant to all three major classes of antifungals, severely limiting treatment options. It can cause invasive infection and is associated with 30-72% crude in-hospital mortality. West Virginia reported its first case in February 2023, and neighboring states have seen a significant burden of *C.auris* infections. Cases in West Virginia have begun to spread primarily in long-term acute care hospitals and nursing homes where our most vulnerable population receives care.



Category §3.6.d.5.

DELETE: Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (carbapenem-resistant *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*)

ADD: Carbapenem-Resistant and/or Carbapenemase-Producing Organisms (*Enterobacteriaceae*, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*)

Rationale: Aligns with CSTE position statement PS 22-ID-04 published in 2023. Carbapenem-resistance and carbapenemase production among bacterial isolates in West Virginia is spreading rapidly, both in and outside of the healthcare setting. The state also maintains some of the highest rates of antibiotic prescription and consumption in the United States further increasing the risk for resistant infections. Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (formerly called *Enterobacteriaceae*) has been reported in the State since 2013. *Acinetobacter* and *Pseudomonas* species have not been included in any prior surveillance as they are not members of the *Enterobacteriaceae* family, further justifying the need to update language from Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* to Carbapenem-Resistant Organisms and Carbapenemase-Producing Organisms.

Category 3.6.b.1

DELETE: Acute flaccid myelitis (AFM)

Category 3.4.b

ADD: Acute flaccid myelitis (AFM)

Rationale: Suspect AFM should be reported within 24 hours of notification since the patient may need urgent medical attention and testing to be performed within 24 hours of symptom onset to increase yield of positive test result.

Category 3.6.b

ADD: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) related death in an individual less than 18 years of age

Rationale: Other serious pediatric conditions are already reportable; this change aligns with standard public health practice to improve surveillance and data accuracy. This will allow public health to compare pediatric mortality across conditions and demographics.

Category 3.7.b and 3.7.c

ADD: Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS)

Rationale: Aligns with position statement 21-ID-07 published in 2023. Reports of AGS have been increasing over the last decade according to scientific literature, but the true burden of cases is unknown. As West Virginia continues to see an expanding geographic range of lone star and other ticks there is an interest in quantifying the burden of AGS in West Virginia to inform public health recommendations and guidance.

This filing with the Secretary of State includes an explanation and background needed for these changes from the State Epidemiologist.

These changes shall take effect on the date submitted for filing and shall be incorporated as an Appendix to the Rule until such time as the Legislature enacts a revision to the rule which will incorporate all additions and deletions that have been filed with the Secretary of State since the last legislative amendment.