



Date: November 7, 2018

DPH Numbered Memo 2018-05

To: Wisconsin Healthcare Providers, Infection Preventionists, Local and Tribal Health Departments, and Laboratorians

From: Jon Meiman, MD  
Chief Medical Officer and State Occupational and Environmental Disease Epidemiologist,  
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health (BEOH)

## Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Reporting Requirements

On July 1, 2018, revisions to Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 145 were published in the Administrative Register. The list of [Communicable Diseases and Other Notifiable Conditions in Appendix A](#) now includes carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Clarifications to the [case reporting and investigation guidelines](#) for CO poisoning are provided below.

### For Local and Tribal Health Departments

Local and tribal health departments are expected to investigate suspect CO poisoning cases with blood carboxyhemoglobin (COHb) levels **at or above 5%** that have been reported through the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS). COHb levels below this threshold should not appear in WEDSS.

**NOTE:** During laboratory onboarding, some COHb levels below 5% may appear in WEDSS. Local and tribal health departments should mark these cases as “sent to state” within WEDSS and no follow-up is expected or required. Additional guidance on case investigation is available on the Division of Public Health (DPH) [WEDSS SharePoint site](#).

### For Laboratorians

Although local and tribal health departments will only investigate suspect CO poisoning cases with COHb levels at or above 5%, laboratorians should report all COHb levels **at or above 2.5%**.

**NOTE:** DPH may revise case investigation criteria in the future to directly align with the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists case definition. This definition includes case classification for COHb levels at or above 2.5%. For this reason, we are requesting labs to report at this lower threshold now to obviate the need for changes to laboratory reporting requirements going forward.

### For Health Care Providers and Infection Preventionists

BEOH encourages healthcare providers and infection preventionists to report mass exposures (for example, more than 10 suspected cases) to expedite public health case investigation of high consequence events. Large magnitude events constitute Category I outbreaks as described in [DHS 145, Appendix A](#).

Additional information regarding CO poisoning reporting can be found at the [DPH Carbon Monoxide webpage](#) under the “For Health Professionals” tab.