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To: Directors of laboratories and health systems that perform hepatitis B virus deoxyribonucleic acid (HBV DNA) testing

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Expanded Reporting of Negative and Undetectable Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) DNA Test Results

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Summary

This memo provides notification of an immediate change to the expected reporting of hepatitis B virus (HBV) laboratory test results. The change is needed to strengthen HBV surveillance activities in Wisconsin as a key strategy under Wisconsin's viral hepatitis elimination plan.

As of January 29, 2026, all HBV DNA test results, including negative and undetectable results should be routinely reported to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).

Background

HBV DNA results are essential components of both state and national HBV surveillance systems. For individuals who have serologic evidence of HBV infection (that is, a positive HBsAg, HBeAg, or IgM anti-HBc result), an HBV DNA test is needed to characterize viral replication, evaluate possible false-positive screening results, and guide perinatal HBV prevention activities. For individuals who have been diagnosed with acute or chronic HBV, follow-up HBV DNA testing helps evaluate confirmatory testing processes, determine linkage to HBV medical care, and assess response to antiviral treatment.

Inclusion of negative and undetectable HBV DNA results strengthens Wisconsin's ability to implement the 2024 [hepatitis B case definitions](#) established by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and meets CDC recommendations for national viral hepatitis surveillance. Health care providers can use HBV DNA results to [monitor patients on and off of HBV therapy](#).

Reporting Results

Statutory authority is granted to the state epidemiologist to determine reportable laboratory, medical, or epidemiologic information related to the diagnosis, surveillance, control, and prevention of communicable diseases as follows:

Wis. Stat. § 252.05 (2) states “Each laboratory shall report as prescribed by the department those specimen results that indicate that an individual providing the specimen has a communicable disease, or having a communicable disease, has died, or that the department finds necessary for the surveillance, control, diagnosis, and prevention of communicable diseases.”

Results should be reported to the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS) via directly interfaced Electronic Laboratory Report (ELR), web-based laboratory reporting (WLR), or traditional paper-based reports.

Contact Information

For questions regarding the use of ELR or WLR for WEDSS reporting:

- [Public Health Registries: Electronic Reportable Laboratory Result Reporting | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)
 - [Account Request for Web-based Laboratory Reporting \(WLR\) | Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene](#)
 - [Wisconsin Public Health Registration for Electronic Data Submission \(PHREDS\) - F-00975: Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)
- Or email the ELR team at CDDELR@slh.wisc.edu.

Questions about paper-based reporting and any other questions about these reporting requirements should be directed to:

- Email: dhspdhbcd@dhs.wisconsin.gov
- Phone: 608-267-9003

Thank you for your cooperation in strengthening Wisconsin's capacity to monitor and prevent HBV transmission in addition to improving linkage to HBV care.