

Frequently Asked Questions: HIV Reporting in New Mexico



WHY IS HIV INFECTION REPORTED?

HIV has been reportable to the HIV & Hepatitis Epidemiology Program at the New Mexico Department of Health since 1981. HIV infection first became reportable on January 15, 1998. Recording both HIV and Stage 3 diagnoses give us a better picture on people that are affected by the disease in New Mexico. This information is used to guide us in targeting prevention, linkage to care, and treatment efforts toward the community we serve. It is also used to justify and allocate funds for HIV services.

WHO SHOULD REPORT HIV AND STAGE 3 CASES?

Any medical provider, laboratory, or organization that offers HIV testing by name or provides care to HIV/Stage 3 patients must report. Health care providers who regularly oversee HIV patients should designate a staff member responsible for reporting. Infection control nurses generally report patients with HIV that are admitted into hospitals. In smaller facilities, case managers, medical assistants, or lab technicians may be the ones responsible for reporting cases.

WHAT ARE THE HIV AND STAGE 3 CASE DEFINITIONS?

HIV: An individual that meets any one criterion below:

1. A combination of positive antibody/antigen screening result **followed** by a supplemental confirmatory result (typically an antibody type differentiation test, but also western blot or IFA tests).
2. A quantitative/qualitative HIV RNA/DNA result (viral load, NAAT, PCR), a test to detect HIV proteins such as the HIV-1 P-24 antigen test, a positive HIV viral culture, or a HIV genotype test.
3. Any other test or condition indicative of HIV infection as defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Stage 3: Documented stage 3 defining opportunistic infections or cancers in those living with HIV, or a CD4 lymphocyte count of <200 per ul. Children born to HIV-infected mothers are reportable whether the child's HIV status is confirmed or not. Please consult CDC's case definition at <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/previ ew/mmwrhtml/rr6303a1.htm> for in depth explanations.

HOW DO I REPORT A CASE?

Adult case report forms are available from the surveillance team website. Pediatric case report forms for newborns and children under the age of 13 are also available. Online reporting is also offered on the team website. Completed forms may be mailed, faxed, or called in to the program:

Attention:
HIV Surveillance Coordinator
Infectious Disease Epidemiology Bureau
New Mexico Department of Health
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N1359
Santa Fe, NM 87502
Secure Fax: (505) 827-0013
Email: rena.manning@doh.nm.gov

Providers should continually update our program on the status of patients, including Stage 3 defining conditions, deaths, incoming transfers, or emigration out of state.

WHAT ABOUT DUPLICATE REPORTS?

Please report all cases, even if the patient has been seen by other providers. This includes patients that were diagnosed and treated in another state. Do not assume a patient has already been reported. The program follows up on each case and deduplicates identical reports. If you have too many cases to notify and require assistance, please contact the program so we can help facilitate this process.

WHAT ABOUT SECURITY?

The program fully protects HIV and all health-protection information. The state's HIV surveillance programs are required to meet security standards outlined by the CDC. Only program staff members have access to the HIV database. All employees sign a confidentiality statement, with criminal penalties for breaches. Security measures physically protect the room and building where the database is kept.

HOW IS THE INFORMATION USED?

Surveillance data are utilized in monthly summaries and annual reports for the state. Statistics are publicly available online on the team's website. In addition, HIV data is used to monitor for outbreaks, planning of HIV Services/Prevention programs, and resource allocations. The team also conducts data analyses, presentations, and awareness products that are shared with stakeholders. Please reach out and allow up to a month's turnaround time for special data requests.

WHAT ABOUT HIPAA?

The HIPAA privacy rule permits patients, providers, and other healthcare professionals to disclose HPIs to public health entities working within the scope of public health reporting and investigation. This includes HIV surveillance activities that are conducted by the program. A variety of state and federal laws also protect the privacy of all HIV related information. Please consult Section 1178(b) of the HIPAA publication.

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

Team Email: DOH-HIVSurveillance@doh.nm.gov

Rena Manning, HIV/Hepatitis Surveillance Manager
Email: rena.manning@doh.nm.gov

Jasmin Valdez, HIV Epidemiologist
Phone: (505) 670-0210
Email: jasmin.valdez@doh.nm.gov

Henley Huang, HIV Epidemiologist
Phone: (505) 709-5279
Email: henley.huang@doh.nm.gov