

Wisconsin Communicable Disease Reporting Requirements



 **DHS Chapter 145:** Establishes a surveillance system for the purpose of controlling the incidence and spread of communicable diseases in Wisconsin.

Agency Responsibilities:

Department of Health Services

- General supervision throughout the state of the health of citizens.
- Maintain a public health system “in cooperation with local health departments.”
- May issue orders to local health departments.

Local Health Departments

- LHDs have primary responsibility for communicable disease follow-up.
- Local health “may do what is reasonable and necessary for the prevention and suppression of disease.” – [Wis. Stat. § 252.03\(2\)](#)
- Local health officers “shall promptly take all measures necessary to prevent, suppress and control communicable diseases. . .” – [Wis. Stat. § 252.03\(1\)](#)

Disease Reporting Requirements:

CATEGORY I: Diseases are of urgent public health importance and **shall be reported by telephone to the patient's local health officer or to the local health officer's designee upon identification of a case or suspected case**, pursuant to s. [DHS 145.04 \(3\) \(a\)](#). In addition to the immediate report, complete and fax, mail or electronically report an Acute and Communicable Diseases Case Report ([DHS F-44151](#)) to the address on the form, or enter the data into the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System, **within 24 hours**. Public health intervention is expected as indicated. See s. [DHS 145.04 \(3\) \(a\)](#).

CATEGORY II: Diseases **shall be reported by fax, mail, or electronic reporting to the patient's local health officer or to the local health officer's designee on an Acute and Communicable Disease Case Report ([DHS F-44151](#)) or by other means or by entering the data into the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System within 72 hours of the identification of a case or suspected case.** See s. [DHS 145.04 \(3\) \(b\)](#).

ENFORCEMENT: Any person who willfully violates or obstructs the execution of any state statute or rule, county, city or village ordinance or departmental order under this chapter and relating to the public health, for which no other penalty is prescribed, shall be imprisoned for not more than 30 days or fined not more than \$500 or both. – [Wis. Stat. § 252.25](#)

