



STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**

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Acting State Health Officer

May 17, 2016

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Alabama Clinical Laboratory Directors

**FROM:** Harrison Wallace, M.P.H. *HW*  
Director, Bureau of Communicable Disease

**SUBJECT:** Electronic Submission

Alabama's Notifiable Disease Rules\* (Chapter 420-4-1) requires that laboratories report testing results for notifiable diseases to the Department "by electronic means as specified by the Department. . ." Electronic submissions include HL7 messages transmitted directly from the laboratory's information management system (LIMS) or direct entry (by the laboratory) into the Bureau's Web-based surveillance system (ALNBS). Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) improves timeliness and accuracy of the lab reports, otherwise subject to transcription and interpretation by non-laboartorians.

Required elements to be reported by laboratories include test method and reference range as well as the name of the disease; the name, date of birth, gender, race, ethnicity, address, phone number, and payor source of the person having said disease or health condition; the date of onset, date of laboratory result; and name, phone number, and facility affiliated with the reporter.

For more information about ELR to Public Health, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's web page that provides information about ELR: <http://www.cdc.gov/elr/about.html>

\*[http://www.adph.org/epi/assets/Final\\_ND\\_Rules.pdf](http://www.adph.org/epi/assets/Final_ND_Rules.pdf)

SD/KMS/SM