

# Information for proprietors of food premises or food vending machines

Micro-organisms notifiable in Victoria

## Your requirement to notify

Infectious diseases and other conditions of public health concern still occur frequently throughout the world, so constant vigilance is required to minimise their spread.

Notification is a vital step in efforts to prevent or control the spread of infection and to prevent further harmful exposures.

## Public Health and Wellbeing legislation

Section 130 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (the act) sets out the requirements for notification of micro-organisms by proprietors of food premises and food vending machines in Victoria.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 (the regulations) set timing and details for notifying. For proprietors of food premises and food vending machines, notifiable micro-organisms and details of their reporting are specified in Schedule 5 of the regulations and include:

- *Campylobacter* spp.
- *Cryptosporidium* spp.
- *Cyclospora* spp.
- Giardia cysts
- Hepatitis A
- *Listeria monocytogenes*
- Norovirus
- *Salmonella* spp.
- Shigatoxin and verotoxin producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC/VTEC)
- *Vibrio* spp.

## Recent changes

The following is a summary of changes to the regulations which apply from 14 December 2019:

- Change the timing of the written notice for a notifiable micro-organism from five days to one day.
- Expand the information in a written notice for a notifiable micro-organism to provide additional details about the food sample and submitter.
- Prescribe Shigatoxin producing *Escherichia coli* as a notifiable micro-organism.
- At the request of the Secretary, require laboratories to transfer food or water samples and isolates (where a notifiable micro-organism has been notified) to a Public Health Laboratory for the purpose of sub-typing.
- Require Public Health Laboratory to report sub-typing information to the Secretary as set out in Schedule 5.

Further details are available at the [department's website](#)

<<http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/policiesandguidelines/information-medical-practitioners-changes->

[to-conditions](#)>. Copies of Victorian legislation are available at the Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents website <<http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au>>.

## When and how to notify food or water results

Proprietors of food premises or food vending machines in Victoria must notify the department when they are informed at any time by the person in charge of a laboratory service whether situated inside or outside Victoria that:

- isolated or detected by that laboratory from or within food or from or within samples taken from food, regardless of where the sample was taken; or
- isolated or detected on behalf of that laboratory by another laboratory situated outside Victoria from or within food or from or within samples taken from food, regardless of where the sample was taken.

### Isolations/detections in food:

• **URGENT** notification by telephone to the department's Food Safety Unit on 1300 364 352 when a notifiable micro-organism is isolated or detected as soon as practicable and within 24 hours.

• written notification must follow within 1 day to the Food Safety Unit at <[notifications@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:notifications@dhhs.vic.gov.au)>.

### Isolations/detections in water:

• **URGENT** notification by telephone to the department's Water Unit on 1300 761 874 when a notifiable micro-organism is isolated or detected as soon as practicable and within 24 hours.

• written notification must follow within 1 day to the Water Unit at <[water@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:water@dhhs.vic.gov.au)>.

## Information you need to notify

### Isolations/detections in food or water

When notifying micro-organisms in food or water under regulation 96, the information notified to the department (immediately by telephone and within 1 day in writing) must include:

- Micro-organism isolated or detected
- Date of isolation or detection
- Sample reference number (if appropriate)
- Test reference number (if appropriate)
- Source (food or water)
  - If the source is food—
    - the type of food product
    - the brand of the food product
    - the name, postal address and telephone number of the food manufacturer
    - the batch number of the food product (if appropriate)
    - the use by or best before date of the food product (if known)
  - If the source is water—
    - information regarding where the sample was collected from
    - the type of water source
- Date the sample was submitted to the notifying laboratory service for testing
- Name, postal and email address and telephone number of notifying laboratory service
- Name, postal and email address and telephone number of person or company that submitted sample for testing

## Micro-organisms notifiable by proprietors

Isolations/detections of the following micro-organisms in **food** require URGENT notification by telephone to the department's Food Safety Unit on 1300 364 352 when a notifiable micro-organism is isolated or detected as soon as practicable and within 24 hours. Written notification must follow within 1 day to the Food Safety Unit at <[notifications@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:notifications@dhhs.vic.gov.au)>.

Isolations/detections of the following micro-organisms in **water** required URGENT notification by telephone to the department's Water Unit on 1300 761 874 when a notifiable micro-organism is isolated or detected as soon as practicable and within 24 hours. Written notification must follow within 1 day to the Water Unit at <[water@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:water@dhhs.vic.gov.au)>.

- *Campylobacter* spp.
- *Cryptosporidium* spp.
- *Cyclospora* spp.
- Giardia cysts
- Hepatitis A
- *Listeria monocytogenes*
- Norovirus
- *Salmonella* spp.
- Shigatoxin and verotoxin producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC/VTEC)
- *Vibrio* spp.

## Privacy legislation

Commonwealth and State privacy legislation does not negate the requirement to notify the specified conditions or to provide the information requested by the department.

## Surveillance reports

The department publishes state wide and localised data on a daily basis. These reports are available at the from the department's [Interactive infectious disease reports](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/interactive-infectious-disease-reports) website <[www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases)>.

## Chief Health Officer alerts and advisories

Health alerts and advisories issued by the Chief Health Officer are available at <[www.health.vic.gov.au/chiefhealthofficer](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/chiefhealthofficer)>. Subscription to health alerts and advisories is also available from the web page.

**Health alerts**—advise the Victorian community of an issue that is urgent, poses an immediate threat to public health and requires an immediate response.

**Health advisories**—provide advice on existing threats to the health and wellbeing of Victorians.

## Further information

All notifications and related inquiries should be directed to:

Department of Health and Human Services

Reply Paid 65937, Melbourne VIC 8060

Telephone 1300 651160 (24/7) Facsimile 1300 651170

Web <[www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases)>

Email <[infectious.diseases@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:infectious.diseases@dhhs.vic.gov.au)>

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 1300 651160, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email the [Communicable Diseases Section <infectious.diseases@dhhs.vic.gov.au>](mailto:infectious.diseases@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

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In this document, 'Aboriginal' refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Available at [the Department of Health and Human Services website <www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases>](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases)