

CHANGES TO LIST OF DISEASES THAT ARE NOTIFIABLE TO PUBLIC HEALTH

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BULLETIN

The Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) is the regulatory body for licensed practical nurses (LPNs), registered nurses (RNs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) in Nova Scotia. Our mandate is to protect the public by promoting the provision of safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing services by our registrants.

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Our practice support tools are developed using current reference material. The source of this material is available upon request.

The [Health Protection Act](#) requires that specific diseases and conditions listed in the Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Conditions Regulations are reported. Recent and future changes in this legislation have an impact on a nurse's [accountability](#) to report to Public Health Services at Nova Scotia Health. There are six additions, three removals, and updates to disease names and specifications. These changes will be implemented in three phases:

Phase 1: Effective September 4, 2025

Disease added:

- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

Disease specifications added:

- "Syphilis" changed to "Syphilis, including syphilitic stillbirths"
- "Rubella" changed to "Rubella, including congenital rubella syndrome"

Phase 2: Effective December 31, 2025

Diseases to be removed:

- Meningitis (bacterial)
 - Specific diseases of public health concern are already reportable (e.g., invasive meningococcal disease, invasive pneumococcal disease)
- Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)
 - Will continue monitoring through other surveillance initiatives in the health system
- Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococci* (VRE)
 - Will continue monitoring through other surveillance initiatives in the health system

Phase 3: Effective April 1, 2026

Diseases to be added:

- Cryptococcosis (due to *C. gattii*)
- Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE)
- Invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* disease (non-b serotypes including untypeable)
- Varicella zoster virus (chickenpox)
- Q fever

Please note that for all notifiable diseases, notification is required only for positive results from tests conducted outside of the Nova Scotia Provincial Public Health Laboratory Network (PPHLN). Nova Scotia Public Health automatically receives results tested in the PPHLN.

Additional Resources

[It's the Law Poster FR](#)

[It's the Law Poster EN](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to an NSCN Practice Consultant at practice@nscn.ca.