

**Request for Comments
On Amending Minnesota's
Communicable Disease Reporting Rules**

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is considering an amendment to the current Communicable Disease Reporting Rules (Specifically, Minnesota Rules, Part 4605. All interested persons are invited to comment on these possible modifications to the requirements. Information on possible changes, the types of groups and individuals likely to be affected, as well as where, when and how to comment on these possible changes is included in this document.

**Minnesota Department of Health
Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control**

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Possible Amendment to Rules Governing Communicable Disease Reporting *Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4605.*

Subject of Rules. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) requests comments on its possible amendments to rules governing communicable disease reporting. This rulemaking process will update Minnesota's Communicable Disease Reporting Rules to reflect today's new scientific methods for HIV/AIDS testing and address issues surrounding HIV/AIDS. The Department is considering rule amendments that will require all laboratories to report to the Minnesota Department of Health the results of all CD4+ lymphocyte counts and percents and the results of all HIV viral detection tests.

Persons Affected. The amendments to the rules would likely affect the following persons: health care providers, medical laboratories, hospitals, and the general Minnesota public.

Statutory Authority. *Minnesota Statutes*, section 144.12 subd. 1 authorizes the Commissioner of Health to adopt reasonable rules pursuant to chapter 14 for the preservation of the public health.

Public Comment. Interested persons or groups may submit comments or information on these possible rules in writing or orally until 4:30 p.m. on March 15, 2010.

Agency Contact Person. Written comments or questions, and requests to receive a draft of the rules, and requests for more information on these possible rules should be directed to Luisa Pessoa-Brandão (MDH), 625 Robert Street N., P.O. Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975, Phone: (651) 201-5414, 1-877-5414, FAX (651) 201-4040, Health.HIVLabRule@state.mn.us TTY users may call MDH at 651-215-8980. The Department has also set up a website where you can get information on the rule at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/hiv/hivreportingrule.html>.

Alternative Format. Upon request, this Request for Comments can be made available in an alternative format, such as large print, Braille, or cassette tape. To make such a request, please contact the agency contact person at the address or telephone number listed above.

Note: Comments received in response to this notice will not necessarily be included in the formal rulemaking record submitted to the Administrative Law Judge when a proceeding to adopt rules is initiated. The Department is required to submit to the judge only those written comments received in response to the rules after they are formally proposed. If you submitted comments during the

development of the rules and you want to ensure that the Administrative Law Judge reviews the comments, you should resubmit the comments after the rules are formally proposed.

Dated: December 23, 2009

Sanne Magnan, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Health