



Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control Division  
PO Box 64975  
St. Paul, MN 5555164-0975  
651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414  
www.health.state.mn.us

---

# Minnesota's Electronic Disease Surveillance System

## What is MEDSS?

MEDSS is Minnesota's Electronic Disease Surveillance and reporting System that allows public health officials to receive, manage, process and analyze disease-related data.

MEDSS is a web-based system that allows secure data exchange and communication among the Department of Health, local public health departments, labs and clinics for immediate reporting and tracking of *communicable* diseases. MEDSS also supports surveillance and follow-up for the Birth Defects and Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program and Tuberculosis case management. MEDSS is compatible with state and national IT security standards.

## What Information Does MEDSS Contain?

MEDSS contains information necessary to track disease trends, detect outbreaks, implement interventions, and recommend prevention and control measures. For example, MEDSS contains laboratory test results and other information collected by the Minnesota Department of Health under Minnesota's Communicable Disease Reporting Rules (Chapter 4605), which is necessary for the prevention and control of communicable disease.

## What about privacy of information in MEDSS?

Protecting the privacy of individuals is of paramount importance to MEDSS and the Minnesota Department of Health. MEDSS is password-protected and accessible only by authorized users as specified in law. The information in MEDSS is classified as private and is protected by the Minnesota Data Practices laws.

## What is the benefit of using MEDSS?

MEDSS supports the state's effort to protect the health of all Minnesotans by allowing the state to modernize disease monitoring in Minnesota. It allows for one integrated comprehensive, secure, and web-based system rather than individual systems for each disease. MEDSS allows for easy tracking, electronic reporting and transmitting de-identified data to the CDC. Other benefits include electronic exchange of health information, secure networks, reports to track cases, less duplication, and one shared system.