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Date: July 27, 2011  
To: County Health Department Epidemiologists  
From: Janet J Hamilton, MPH; Surveillance and Reporting Section Administrator,  
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Subject: Summary of Midyear Changes to the Reportable Disease Case Definitions

A number of changes to the reportable disease case definitions are needed as a result of the increase in use of non-culture based laboratory methods and of position statements approved by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) during 2011.

The document "Surveillance Case Definitions for Select Reportable Diseases in Florida, 2011" is posted on the Bureau of Epidemiology Internet site [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/surv/CaseDefinitions.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/surv/CaseDefinitions.html).

**Summary of case definition changes:**

1. Campylobacteriosis: revises the confirmed case definition eliminating the need for clinically compatible illness for confirmed cases; revises the probable case definition: only those cases that are epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case will continue to meet the probable case definition; adds a suspect case definition that includes **all positive non-culture** based laboratory results (including antigen detection) regardless of symptoms. Positive antigen test results will no longer meet the probable case definition.
2. Salmonellosis: adds a suspected case definition that includes cases with positive non-culture based laboratory results regardless of symptoms.
3. Shigellosis: adds a suspect case definition that includes cases with positive non-culture based laboratory results regardless of symptoms.
4. *Escherichia coli*, Shiga-Toxin Producing (STEC): updates the note section to add clarification to current procedures: all Shiga toxin-positive specimens should be sent to the Bureau of Laboratories for confirmation and additional testing.

These changes will be effective in Merlin on July 27, 2011.

Please note that only confirmed and probable cases of campylobacteriosis, STEC, salmonellosis, and shigellosis are summarized in the weekly and annual CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) weekly notifiable disease tables and annual summary. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/>

Thank you very much for your surveillance and reporting efforts throughout the year. Your input is essential as we continue to work together to prevent and control these diseases.