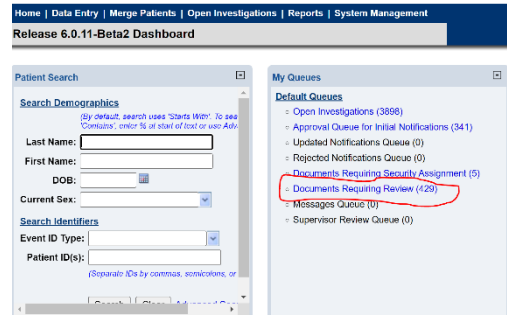




## Electronic Initial Case Reporting (eICR) Update- Mpox COMING NEXT WEEK

DSHS is excited to announce that Mpox will soon be the newest condition added to electronic initial case reports (eICRs) in production in Texas National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS). In October 2022, COVID-19 was the first condition of eICRs launched in NEDSS. It is important to note the difference in how the two conditions are processed into NEDSS. A specialized algorithm was created for COVID-19, where incoming eICRs are matched and associated with existing confirmed and probable case investigations. All eICRs for non-COVID-19 conditions will initially be processed into NEDSS via the *Documents Requiring Review (DRR)* queue in NEDSS. The DRR queue is the same queue where incoming electronic laboratory reports (ELRs) are processed. New eICRs will be processed into the DRR queue every two hours.



### eICR Key Points

- eICRs are messages triggered by an onboarded hospital’s electronic health record (EHR) system to public health.
- The eICR contains information about a patient’s health encounter/visit to a health care facility for a notifiable condition. If key information from that health encounter meets the filtering criteria defined by the Reportable Condition Knowledge Management System (RCKMS) for that condition, then an eICR message will be triggered from the EHR to NEDSS.
- [RCKMS criteria for COVID-19](#) currently filters for an indication of a positive PCR or positive antigen test.
- [RCKMS criteria for Mpox](#) looks for any indication of Mpox either by diagnoses or lab confirmation. The current volume of Mpox activity is very low across the state. If activity levels change, RCKMS criteria may be reevaluated. DSHS will consider activity level along with discussions with local and regional feedback to determine when criteria changes are appropriate.
- The eICR may include information such as patient demographics, encounter details, immunization records, administered medications, plan of treatment, reason for visit, results of testing completed during the encounter, and any miscellaneous notes provided by the physician/facility.

### eICR Utilization

Currently there is no requirement for follow-up on eICRs. Local and regional jurisdictions have discretion as to whether and how they use eICR information for follow-up. eICRs are being provided as a key



informational resource to be added to surveillance and epidemiology staff toolkits. eICRs can aid in enriching case investigation data. One goal of eICR is to replace paper patient health records currently being received by fax or mail at health departments with an easy to navigate electronic record. It will also help eliminate manual abstractions being conducted onsite at a health care facility. This improves overall time efficiency and reduces costs for employees traveling to conduct abstractions.

## **eICR Training Overview & Guide**

### **Mpox eICR Training**

Please watch video guidance for a thorough overview on Mpox eICRs.

- [\*\*eICR General Refresher and Mpox Introduction Video Training\*\*](#) (14 mins, *PDF slides attached to email*):
  - Brief review of electronic case reporting process
  - Recommendations
  - Highlight of useful data found in Mpox eICRs
  - Mpox use-case scenarios
    - Early case finding
    - Utilizing additional information for robust case investigations
    - Identifying severe clinical cases
  - Tips
- [\*\*Mpox eICR NEDSS Walkthrough Video Training\*\*](#) (12 mins)
  - How Mpox eICRs are processed into NEDSS
  - Review of *Documents Requiring Review* queue
    - Updated eICR documents
  - Review of eICR standard message sections
    - Navigating components of the eICR message
  - Creating a case investigation from an Mpox eICR
  - How to conduct a side-by-side review of an eICR and case investigation
  - Associating an Mpox eICR to existing case investigation

### **COVID-19 eICR Training**

For a refresher on COVID-19 eICR processing, please see [\*\*PHID Introduction to Electronic Case Reporting \(eCR\)\*\*](#). This information was originally sent to NEDSS users in October 2022. This video is 36 minutes in length and topics covered include the following:

- Basic overview of eCR process,
- Review of RCKMS,
- eICR Walkthrough & Review in NEDSS (in depth walkthrough of structure and components of an eICR and suggestions for use alongside case investigation in NEDSS)
- COVID-19 eCR matching algorithm



## **Healthcare Organizations Sending eICR**

The two healthcare organizations onboarded to NEDSS for COVID-19 and Mpox are Baylor Scott & White Health Systems and Cook Children's Health Systems. DSHS is also registering and onboarding additional healthcare organizations. DSHS will communicate updates as new hospitals are added.

## **eICR Report**

A user report to contain Mpox and other non-COVID-19 conditions will be available in future. Mpox messages are viewable in the DRR and can be exported as a line list if desired.

A COVID-19 eICR report is already available in the NEDSS reports section. Users can pull a report that will detail COVID-19 case investigations that have a matching eICR associated in NEDSS. Please note that eICRs in production will initially only include the two healthcare organizations mentioned above, so there may not be any eICRs available yet for your area.

## **Contact Information**

Questions specific to Mpox case investigations should be sent to [eaidumonitoring@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:eaidumonitoring@dshs.texas.gov). Questions on eICR technical details can be sent to [TexasECR@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:TexasECR@dshs.texas.gov).