DSHS Electronic Initial Case Reporting (eICR) Update
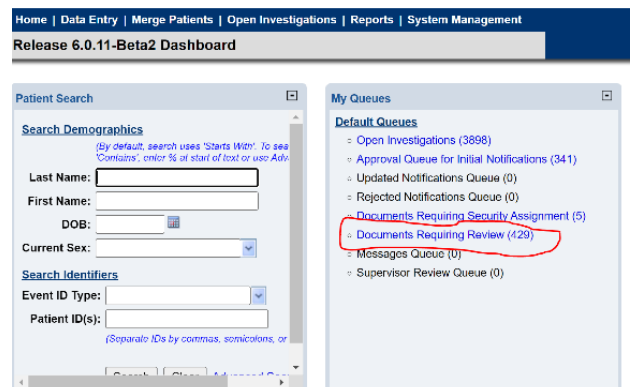## April 2023

New eICR Conditions Coming to Texas NEDSS

DSHS is excited to announce the addition of new electronic initial case report (eICR) conditions to the Texas National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS). In addition to COVID-19 and Mpox, the table below provides an updated tentative schedule to release additional notifiable conditions into Texas NEDSS. The release will be conducted by condition program area. The first round of release will include conditions that require either immediate or within 1 day notification to public health. These reportable time frames can be found in the [Texas Notifiable Conditions](#) list.

Tentative Date for Release	Program Area	Reporting Category
Apr 17	Vaccine preventable diseases	Immediate & 1day
Apr 17	Foodborne & Waterborne diseases	Immediate & 1 day
Apr 24	Infectious respiratory	Immediate & 1 day
May 1	Zoonotic Control conditions	Immediate & 1 day
May 8	AFM and High Consequence Infectious Diseases	Immediate & 1 day
May 15	Health Acquired Infectious Diseases/MDRO	Immediate & 1 day
1-week reportable conditions to be assessed by DSHS Epi SMEs and added in a second roll out phase by program area.		

As a reminder, all eICRs for non-COVID-19 conditions will 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 are processed into the DRR queue every two hours.

eICR Utilization

Currently there is no requirement for follow-up on eICRs. Local and regional jurisdictions have discretion as to 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, especially for cases that were lost to follow up or have limited information.

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.

New Healthcare Organizations Sending eICR
Parkland Health System was recently added to NEDSS production. This was in addition to the two healthcare organizations already onboarded to NEDSS, Baylor Scott & White Health Systems and Cook Children's Health Systems. The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) Health System will be added next week. DSHS is also registering and onboarding additional healthcare organizations. DSHS will continue to communicate updates as new healthcare organizations are added.

eICR User Report
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. A new user report for non-COVID-19 conditions will soon be available in NEDSS.

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.
- 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.

Previously Shared eICR Training Guidance
Mpox eICR Training
Please watch video guidance for a thorough overview on Mpox eICRs.
- **eICR General Refresher and Mpox Introduction Video Training (**14 mins):
  - 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

Contact Information

- Questions on eICR technical details can be sent to TexasECR@dshs.texas.gov
- Questions specific to case investigations should be sent to the appropriate email box listed below:
  - Foodborne/Waterborne- Foodborne@dshs.texas.gov
  - Vaccine Preventable Diseases- VPDTexas@dshs.texas.gov
  - Mpox- eaidumonitoring@dshs.texas.gov