

Investigation Initiation Date



Infectious Disease
Epidemiology &
Prevention Division

October 2024

Definition

The Investigation initiation date is the date an investigator first took action to gather information for the investigation via one or more of the following methods:

- First contact attempt to the patient (phone call, letter, email, etc.)
- First contact attempt to the treating facility or reporting facility
- Medical record request or review

Why is this collected?

This variable will be used in NBS to provide a standardized means of measuring the amount of time it takes for counties to initiate a public health investigation.

Why is this important?

- Implementation of this variable will allow us to accurately measure the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Prevention key performance indicator (KPI), *“Number of counties that initiated a public health investigation within 24 hours for 95% of the immediately reportable conditions reported to them and within two business days for 85% of non-immediately reportable conditions reported to them.”*
- This will support the goal of [Health First Indiana](#) to ensure that every Hoosier has access to the core public health services that allow them to achieve their optimal health and well-being

Tips for completion

- Investigation initiation date should be completed by the investigator as soon as possible
- This should be completed for all applicable condition investigations (see Table), regardless of investigation by LHD or IDOH staff
- This is a distinct field, different from investigation start date and date assigned to investigation
- Some investigations may include additional fields related to investigation status or contact attempts. Please continue to complete all relevant fields in each investigation.

Examples

- A public health nurse is assigned a Hepatitis A investigation on Aug. 1 and calls the treating facility on Aug. 2 to get additional details about the patient on Aug. 3. Investigation initiation date would be **Aug. 2**
- An IDOH investigator is assigned a botulism case and utilizes CareWeb to access medical records on Nov. 15 before leaving a voicemail for the patient on Nov. 17. Investigation initiation date would be **Nov. 15**

Condition Exceptions

The Investigation initiation date variable can be found on the investigations for [all reportable conditions](#) in NBS *except:*

Condition Name	Name in NBS
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , invasive disease	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , invasive
Hansen's disease (Leprosy)	Hansen disease (Leprosy)
<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	Lyme Disease
Rubella (German Measles)	Rubella
Rubella Congenital Syndrome	Rubella, Congenital Syndrome (CRS)
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (SARS-CoV)	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV)
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , invasive disease	<i>Strep pneumoniae</i> , invasive
<i>Streptococcus</i> , Group A, invasive disease	Streptococcal disease, invasive, Group A
Toxic shock syndrome, streptococcal	Streptococcal toxic-shock syndrome
Varicella (Chickenpox)	Varicella (Chickenpox)

KPI evaluation

- IDOH will calculate the time it takes to initiate an investigation by comparing the investigation initiation date to the investigation start date
- Only conditions for which local health department staff are completing the investigations will be utilized to evaluate the initiation time
- All investigations, regardless of case status, will be included in the evaluation
- Local health departments can calculate their own progress towards the KPI by using the “Case Investigation Line List with Investigation Initiation Date” report, which can be found in NBS under the “Local Health Department” subsection within the “Public Reports” section