

**STATE OF UTAH
FISH HEALTH POLICY BOARD**

PROCEDURES FOR THE TIMELY REPORTING OF PATHOGENS

1. A confirmed finding of an emergency prohibited or prohibited pathogen from any source must be reported to the Fish Health Policy Board (FHPB). A “confirmed finding” is when the presence of a pathogen has been confirmed under the criteria set forth in the American Fisheries Society, Fish Health Section Blue Book.
2. Unconfirmed evidence of an emergency prohibited or prohibited pathogen must be reported to either the Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) or the Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), whichever is the responsible agency according to the location in which evidence of a pathogen was found. These agencies will report the unconfirmed evidence to each other. “Unconfirmed evidence” is when preliminary laboratory testing has demonstrated presumptive evidence of a pathogen, but the presence or identity of the pathogen has not yet been confirmed by other required procedures. All records documenting the reporting or investigation of an unconfirmed evidence of an emergency prohibited or prohibited pathogen in a public or private aquatic animal population are classified as “protected” records under Utah Code Ann. § 63-2-304. The records shall retain the “protected” classification until the pathogen is confirmed under the criteria set forth in the American Fisheries Society, Fish Health Section Blue Book, whereupon they will be classified as “public” records under Utah Code Ann. § 63-2-301.
3. A current pathogen classification list is maintained by the Fish Health Policy Board and can be obtained from either the UDAF or the UDWR. Pathogens are categorized as either emergency prohibited, prohibited, or unregulated. Unregulated pathogens are not required to be reported to the FHPB, but are listed on inspection reports because they may be regulated in other states. (See attached list)
4. The Fish Health Program of the UDAF is responsible for reporting confirmed findings or unconfirmed evidence of emergency prohibited and prohibited pathogens from aquaculture facilities or fee fishing facilities in the state, and any out-of-state health approved source. The Fish Health Program of the UDWR is responsible for reporting confirmed findings or unconfirmed evidence of emergency prohibited or prohibited pathogens from public aquaculture facilities, private ponds, and wild populations of aquatic animals in waters within the state. Confirmed findings or unconfirmed evidence of an emergency prohibited or prohibited pathogen detected by any laboratory other than those utilized or operated by UDAF and UDWR must be reported to the responsible state agency by the certificate of registration (COR) holder or facility operator.

5. Any confirmed finding or unconfirmed evidence of an emergency prohibited or prohibited pathogen must be reported via telephone calls or email messages within 5 calendar days, with a written report to be mailed within one calendar week of the telephone calls or email messages. The report shall contain the following information:
 - a. agency involved in detecting the pathogen;
 - b. owner/operator of the aquatic facility;
 - c. laboratory involved in the testing;
 - d. geographic location of the finding;
 - e. information on the affected aquatic animal population, such as species and age group;
 - f. pathogen found;
 - g. dates of sample collection and testing;
 - h. laboratory method used.
 - i. preliminary plan of action from the agency emergency response team
 - j. confirmatory test used

6. All confirmed reports of emergency prohibited or prohibited pathogens must be made to the Chair of the Fish Health Policy Board, the State Veterinarian, and the Director of the Division of Wildlife Resources. Each of these people must be contacted independently. These people can then distribute the information to other parties on a need-to-know basis.

These procedures were approved by the Fish Health Policy Board and went into effect on September 25, 1998. Final revisions to this document and addition of the Classifications of Pathogens chart were made on November 9, 1998.