1.27 Reporting of Communicable Diseases to the Health Department

Purpose

To establish a system for reporting communicable diseases that are of public health importance to County Health Departments as required by state law.

Audience

Infection preventionists, physicians, clinical laboratory directors, and other staff members having knowledge that patients may have reportable diseases.

Policy

The Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Act (Texas Civil Statutes, Article 4419b-1), Health and Safety Code, Ch. 81 requires that certain diseases be reported.

Required Reporting

Diseases and suspect cases reportable immediately by telephone:

- Anthrax
- Botulism
- Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)
- Controlled substance overdose
- Coronavirus, novel
- Diphtheria
- Influenza, novel
- Lead child blood any level and adult blood any level
- Measles (Rubeola)
- Meningococcal infection, invasive
- Multidrug-resistant Acinetobacter (MDR-A)
- Plague
- Poliomyelitis, acute paralytic
- Rabies, human
- Smallpox
- Staph aureus, vancomycin resistant (VISA and VRSA)
- Tularemia
- Viral hemorrhagic fevers, including Ebola
- Yellow fever

Diseases reportable within one working day of identification as a...
suspected case:
- Brucellosis
- Hepatitis A (acute)
- Hepatitis B, perinatal (HBgsAg+ <24 months old)
- Influenza-associated pediatric mortality
- Pertussis
- Poliovirus infection, non paralytic
- Q fever
- Rubella (including congenital) - report to GCHD as above
- Syphilis, primary and secondary stages
- Tuberculosis disease- report by telephone or Fax to Galveston County Health Dept. Fax # (409) 938-2220
- Vibrio infection, including cholera

Diseases reportable on a weekly or occurrence basis:
- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome* (AIDS)
- Amebiasis
- Amebic meningitis and encephalitis
- Anaplasmosis
- Arbovirus infection
- Asbestosis
- Babesiosis
- Botulism, infant, wound, and other
- Campylobacteriosis
- Chagas' disease
- Chancroid*
- Chickenpox (varicella)
- Chlamydia trachomatis infection*
- Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Cyclosporiasis
- Cysticercosis
- Dengue
- Ehrlichiosis
- Escherichia coli infection, Shiga toxin-producing - Gonorrhea*
- *Haemophilus influenza* type b infections, invasive
- Hansen’s disease (leprosy)
- Hantavirus infection
- Hemolytic uremic syndrome
- Hepatitis, B, C, and E. (acute)
- Hepatitis B identified prenatally or at delivery (acute & chronic)
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus* (HIV infection)
- Legionellosis
- Leishmaniasis
- Listeriosis
- Lyme Disease
- Malaria
- Mumps
- Pesticide poisoning, acute occupational
- Relapsing fever
- Salmonellosis, including typhoid fever
- Shigellosis
- Silicosis
- Spotted fever group rickettsioses (RMSF)
- Streptococcal disease (group A, group B, or pneumococcal-invasive)
- Syphilis*-all other stages
- *Taenia solium* and undifferentiated *Taenia* infection
- Tetanus
- Trichinosis
- Typhus
- West Nile Fever
- Yersiniosis

For most diseases, a report should include the following: name, birthdate, sex, race/ethnicity, address, telephone number, disease/condition, onset date, healthcare provider, and method of diagnosis. Report as many of the above items as possible, plus other appropriate, useful information if available. Guidance on recommended testing procedures is available in the Texas Department
of Health publication titled “Identification and Confirmation of Reportable Diseases.” The GCHD Disease Report Form is available from the UTMB Department of Healthcare Epidemiology and from the Galveston County Health District, Epidemiology, P.O. Box 838, Galveston, Texas 77553.

- Report AIDS, chancroid, Chlamydia trachomatis infection, gonorrhea, HIV infection, and syphilis to Galveston County Health District, STD Control, P.O. Box 838, Galveston, TX 77553.

NOTE: Invasive infection means the pathogen was isolated from a normally sterile site (e.g. blood, CSF).

Procedure

- Report AIDS, chancroid, chlamydia trachomatis infection, gonorrhea, HIV and syphilis infections to GCHD, Sexually Transmitted Disease Control, P.O. Box 838, Galveston, Texas 77553.

- Forms for these reports are available from GCHD STD Control and from UTMB Healthcare Epidemiology.

- In addition to the requirement of individual case reports, any unusual disease occurrence or outbreak of public health concern should be reported by the most expeditious means to the local health authority (GCHD).

- Report by telephone suspected foodborne diseases to GCHD, Environmental and Consumer Health, P.O. Box 939, LaMarque, Texas, 77568.

- For Chickenpox, report only numbers of cases by age per week or other specified period.

Responsibility

- The Clinical Microbiology and Immunology Divisions in Laboratory Medicine in the Department of Pathology are responsible for contacting the physician and the Department of Healthcare Epidemiology immediately with reports of the above diseases. STDs may be reported directly to GCHD.

- The Admitting Department and the admitting physician are responsible for notifying the Department of Healthcare Epidemiology immediately upon admission of a patient suspected or known to have one of the above diseases.

- The physician, nurse manager, or their designee is responsible for
contacting the Department of Healthcare Epidemiology immediately about hospitalized patients who are suspected of having or are known to have a disease from one of the above lists.

- All communicable diseases (with the exception of STDs) whether reported to the GCHD or not, should be reported to the Department of Healthcare Epidemiology.

The Department of Healthcare Epidemiology telephone number is: (409) 772-3192. After 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and on weekends and holidays, the Department of Healthcare Epidemiology personnel may be reached by contacting the hospital operator.

References

1. Texas Department of Health, Rules and Regulations for the Control of Communicable and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 10/94 and subsequent revisions.
2. Texas Department of Health, Identification and Confirmation of Reportable Diseases, Stock No. 6-142.
3. Texas Department of State Health Services Notifiable Conditions. [http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/investigation/conditions/]