01.27 - 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
Communicable diseases will be reported as per state law requirements. Diseases and suspect cases reportable immediately by telephone.

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Texas Notifiable Conditions
24/7 Number for Immediately Reportable: 1-800-705-8868
Report confirmed and suspected cases. Unless noted by *, report to your local or regional health department using number above or find contact information at http://www.dshs.texas.gov/id/ci/investigations/conditions/contact/
Texas Notifiable Conditions Footnotes

1 Please refer to specific rules and regulations for HIV/STD reporting and who to report to at: http://www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/healthcare/reporting.shtm.

2 Reporting forms are available at http://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/investigation/forms/ and investigation forms at http://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/investigation/. Call as indicated for immediately reportable.

3 Lab samples of the following must be sent to the Department of State Health Services, Laboratory Services Section, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756-3199 or other public health laboratory as designated by the Department of State Health Services: Bacillus anthracis, Clostridium botulinum, Brucella species isolates, Corynebacterium diphtheriae isolates, Haemophilus influenzae isolates from normally sterile sites in children under five years old, Listeria monocytogenes isolates, Neisseria meningitidis isolates from normally sterile sites or purpuric lesions, Yersinia pestis isolates, Salmonella species isolates (also requested - specimens positive for Salmonella by culture-independent diagnostic testing (CIDT) methods), Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (all E.coli O157:H7 isolates and any E.coli isolates or specimens in which Shiga toxin activity has been demonstrated), Staphylococcus aureus with a vancomycin MIC greater than 2 μg/mL (VISA and VRSA), Streptococcus pneumoniae isolates from normally sterile sites in children under five years old, Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex isolates, Francisella tularensis isolates, and Vibrio species isolates (also requested - specimens positive for Vibrio) by culture-independent diagnostic testing (CIDT) methods. Pure cultures (or specimens) should be submitted as they become available accompanied by a current department specimen Submission Form. See the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 97: §97.3(a)(4), §97.4(a)(6), and §97.5(a)(2)(C). Call 512-776-7598 for specimen submission information.

4 Arboviral infections including, but not limited to, those caused by California serogroup virus, chikungunya virus, dengue virus, Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus, St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) virus, Western equine encephalitis (WEE) virus, West Nile (WN) virus, and Zika virus.

5 For asbestos reporting information see http://www.dshs.texas.gov/epitox/Asbestos-and-Silicosis-Surveillance/.


7 Report suspected botulism immediately by phone to 888-963-7111.

8 For pesticide reporting information see http://www.dshs.texas.gov/epitox/Pesticide-Exposure/#reporting.

9 For more information on cancer reporting rules and requirements go to http://www.dshs.texas.gov/tcr/reporting.shtm.


11 For purposes of surveillance, CJD notification also includes Kuru, Gerstmann-Sträussler-Scheinker (GSS) disease, fatal familial insomnia (FFI), sporadic fatal insomnia (sFI), Variably Protease-Sensitive Prionopathy (VPSPI), and any novel prion disease affecting humans.

12 Call your local health department for a copy of the Varicella Reporting Form with their fax number. The Varicella (Chickenpox) Reporting Form should be used instead of an Epi-1 or Epi-2 morbidity report.

13 Applicable for governmental entities. Not applicable to private facilities. (TAC §96.201) Initial reporting forms for Contaminated Sharps at http://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/health/infection_control/sharps/sharps pathogens/reporting/.

14 To report controlled substance overdose, contact local poison center at 1-800-222-1222. For instructions, see https://www.dshs.texas.gov/epidemiology/oppoison.shtm.

15 Novel coronavirus causing severe acute respiratory disease includes Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

16 For siliocosis reporting information see http://www.dshs.texas.gov/epitox/Asbestos-and-Silicosis-Surveillance/.

17 Please refer to specific rules and regulations for injury reporting and who to report to at http://www.dshs.texas.gov/health/injury/rules.shtm.

18 Laboratories should report syphilis tests results within 3 work days of the testing outcome.

19 Reportable tuberculosis disease includes the following: suspected tuberculosis disease pending final laboratory results; positive nucleic acid amplification tests; clinically or laboratory-confirmed tuberculosis disease; and all Mycobacterium tuberculosis (M. tb) complex including M. tuberculosis, M. bovis, M. africanum, M. canetti, M. microti, M. caprae, and M. pinnipedi. See rules and reporting information at http://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/tb/reporting/.

20 TB infection is determined by a positive result from an FDA-approved Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) test such as T-SpotTB or Quantiferon TB GOLD In-Tube Test or a tuberculin skin test, and a normal chest radiograph with no presenting symptoms of TB disease.

21 Any person suspected of having HIV should be reported, including HIV exposed infants.

22 For lead reporting information see http://www.dshs.texas.gov/lead/default.shtm.

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 Infection Control & 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 Infection Control & 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 Infection Control & 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 Infection Control & 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 Infection Control & 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 Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology.

The Department of Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology telephone number is: (409) 772-3192. After 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and on weekends and holidays, the Department of Infection Control & 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
   – Texas Notifiable Conditions.
   [http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/investigation/conditions/](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/investigation/conditions/)