

HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: REPORTABLE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS

POLICY NO. 603

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide healthcare providers with instruction on which communicable diseases require mandatory reporting to the local health department; who must report and how to report diseases including suspected or documented outbreaks of communicable diseases; and information specific to transferring or discharging patients with communicable diseases.

POLICY:

Harbor-UCLA will comply with State of California mandatory law to report specific diseases or outbreak of disease to the local health department as outlined below.

PROCEDURE:

I. REPORTABLE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS: A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER'S RESPONSIBILITY

A. State Law

State law (California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 2500, Public Health) requires health care providers to report diseases or outbreak of disease to the local health department, Communicable Disease Reporting System Hotline: (888) 397-3993; fax: (888) 397-3778. For questions, or to discuss any case, contact Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) at (213) 240-7941(M-F, 8 to 5) or (213) 974-1234 (after hours).

B. Objectives of Disease Surveillance

The primary objectives of diseases surveillance are to: 1) determine the extent of morbidity within the community, 2) evaluate risks of transmission, and 3) intervene rapidly when appropriate. For surveillance to be effective, the reporting of communicable diseases must be timely. Delay or failure to report has contributed to serious consequences and is punishable by fine or imprisonment.

C. Who Should Report

Medical doctors, laboratories, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, nurse midwives, infection prevention and control practitioners, medical examiners, coroners, dentists, and administrators of health facilities are required to report diseases to their local health department.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/85

SUPERSEDES:

REVISED: 06/85, 06/89, 03/96, 09/98, 12/98, 03/99, 05/01, 03/05, 7/11, 08/14, 1/17

REVIEWED: 06/85, 08/86, 06/89, 07/89, 10/92, 03/96, 09/98, 12/98, 03/99, 05/01, 02/02, 7/11, 06/14, 1/17

REVIEWED COMMITTEE: Infection Prevention and Control Dept.

APPROVED BY:

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Interim Chief Nursing Officer

Signature(s) on File.

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II. DISEASES AND CONDITIONS TO BE REPORTED TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND INFECTION CONTROL

For a complete listing of diseases that must be reported to the Communicable Disease Reporting System Hotline, refer to <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/> and call the hotline at (888) 397-3993.

Reportable conditions must also be reported to the Infection Prevention and Control Dept. at (310) 222-3838.

A listing of reportable diseases is also posted in any patient care area nursing station.

III. HOW TO REPORT

A standard Confidential Morbidity Report card (CMR) is available for reporting communicable Diseases. Any healthcare provider may report a disease to the Communicable Disease Reporting System (888) 397-3993.

Alternatively, physicians may contact the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Infection Preventionists at (310) 222-3838 and request that an Infection Preventionist report the disease for them. The physician must provide the patient's name and medical record number, diagnosis, date of onset if known, and any pertinent lab tests performed to make the diagnosis.

- Sexually Transmitted Diseases are to be reported to the Sexually Transmitted Disease Program (213) 744-3070; or Harbor-UCLA Medical Center STD Liaison Nurse, extension 2254.
- HIV and AIDS cases are to be reported to the HIV Epidemiology Program. To request form or to report by phone, call (213) 351-8516.
- Tuberculosis cases and suspected cases are to be reported to the TB Control Program (213) 744-6271, or Harbor-UCLA Medical Center TB Liaison Office at extension 3443 when treatment is started, or AFB tests ordered.

IV. OUTBREAK/UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE**A. Reporting of Outbreaks**

Definition: Outbreak is defined as occurrence of cases of a disease above the expected or baseline, usually over a given period of time, or in a specific population group, as evaluated by the IP&C Department. The designation of an outbreak is relative to the usual frequency of the disease in the same facility or community, among the specified population, over a comparable period of time. A single case of a communicable disease long absent from a population or the first occurrence by a disease not previously recognized requires immediate reporting and epidemiologic investigation.

Reporting Requirement: Any healthcare provider having knowledge of any outbreak or unusual incidence of infections listed in Section 2500, should **immediately by telephone** report the facts to Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C), whose phone numbers and pagers are located on the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center intranet. The Infectious Disease fellow on call (310-501-7804) may be able to assist with covering IP&C physicians during off hours. In conjunction with IP&C, the provider and/or an IP&C member may need to contact the Los Angeles County Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) staff, depending on the nature of the outbreak. The caller will need to specify if the outbreak is an institutional or community outbreak.

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B. Occurrence of Unusual Diseases

Definition: Unusual disease is defined as a rare disease or a newly apparent or emerging disease or syndrome of uncertain etiology that a healthcare provider has reason to believe could possibly be caused by a transmissible infectious agent or microbial toxin.

Reporting Requirement: Any healthcare provider having knowledge of a case of an unusual disease not listed in Section 2500 shall **promptly** convey the facts to Infection Prevention and Control in the manner outlined above in section IV A. In consultation with IP&C, the disease may need to be reported to ACDC.

C. Reporting by the Public Health Department.

Periodically ACDC sends notices regarding community outbreaks or other items of importance. These bulletins and health department “Alerts” are forwarded to the various applicable services, such as Emergency Medicine, Infectious Disease, and Medicine.

V. Transfer or Discharge of Patients with Communicable Diseases

A. Patients Who Are Culture Positives

Patients who are culture positives for Salmonella or Shigella species (including Typhoid carriers) must not be discharged to skilled nursing or intermediate care facility unless prior approval has been obtained from the ACDC Unit (213) 240-7971.

B. Known or Suspected Cases of the TB

Known or suspected cases of the TB cannot be discharged, released, or transferred from a health care facility until the TB Controller (extension 3443) has approved a written treatment plan.

REFERENCES:

Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Public Health Programs and Services
2000/2001/2002/2003/2004/2011/2016.