



CD Connection

Orange County Communicable Disease News

Health Care Agency/Public Health Services - Epidemiology

1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

July 26, 2007

REPORTABLE DISEASES LIST UPDATED!

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) was recently given the authority through Assembly Bill (AB) 1091 to modify the list of reportable diseases at any time, after consultation with the Local Health Officers, and without going through the previous administrative regulation and rulemaking process. This will allow public health departments to more quickly respond to the emergence of a new disease, condition, or threat to the public's health. When reports are received, Orange County public health may call the reporting health care provider and/or the patient for more information, depending on the disease. Health care providers should notify patients of their diagnosis and that they may be contacted.

- **What needs to be reported?** As changes may be made periodically to the reportable diseases list, please refer to <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/report-diseases.htm> for the most up-to-date complete list. Important recent changes include:
 - addition of Avian Influenza (human) – reportable immediately by phone
 - addition of Creutzfeldt-Jakob (CJD) and other Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) – reportable within seven calendar days
 - addition of Shiga toxin (detected in feces) – reportable immediately by phone
 - modification of *Escherichia coli* reporting to include all shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC), including *E. coli* O157
 - addition of Influenza deaths (persons under 18 years of age)
 - deletion of nongonococcal urethritis (NGU).

Some very rarely reported diseases are no longer listed separately (e.g., Anisakiasis, Echinococcosis, Lymphocytic choriomeningitis, Reye syndrome); however, they are still reportable as Unusual Diseases.

- **Who needs to report?** Under Title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR), §2500, “it shall be the duty of every health care provider, knowing of or in attendance on a case or suspected case of any of the diseases or conditions [on the reportable diseases list], to report to the local health officer for the jurisdiction where the patient resides...” A health care provider includes any of the following:

physician	surgeon	veterinarian	podiatrist	nurse practitioner
physician assistant	registered nurse	nurse midwife	school nurse	medical examiner
coroner	dentist	infection control practitioner		

Reporting makes a difference...

- Hospital calls on-call public health officer on a Saturday afternoon to report 3 *E. coli* O157 cases. Cases were interviewed and Environmental Health dispatched to inspect the implicated restaurant that evening and ensure no ongoing source of infection. Fourteen cases were identified associated with that restaurant.
- Health care provider reports case of paragonimiasis (lung fluke infection) as an unusual disease. Through epidemiologic investigation and public/health care provider education, 18 additional cases identified associated with live crab consumption at two local restaurants.

- **Why report?** Please see the insert for examples of how prompt reporting makes a difference!
 - Your reports form the basis for surveillance of communicable diseases in the County.
 - Reporting of these diseases and conditions is required by law (Title 17, CCR §2500).
 - Failure to comply with required disease reporting may be considered as “unprofessional conduct” and result in a citation and/or fine by the Medical Board of California.

- **How to report:** Consult the reportable diseases list for the timeframe (immediately, within one working day, or within seven calendar days) and manner (by phone, fax, or mail) in which to report. Reports are made to Epidemiology at 714-834-8180 (phone) or 714-834-8196 (fax). Urgent reports after regular work hours, on weekends, or holidays should be made to the public health official on call. See the reportable diseases list for details.

For comments or suggestions on the newsletter, contact Dr. Michele Cheung at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.