

## POLICY ON COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTING

### Policy:

In Louisiana, physicians are required by the Louisiana State Sanitary Code “to report to the State Health Officer [...] any case or suspected case of reportable disease which he or she is attending, or has examined, or for which such physician has prescribed” (LAC 51:I.105A).

### Guidelines:

There are a number of different ways to report communicable diseases to the Office of Public Health. Disease reports may be entered electronically into the Infectious Disease Reporting Information System (IDRIS), phoned in, mailed to the regional office in a sealed envelope marked “Confidential,” or faxed. Electronic disease reporting is available for all communicable diseases through IDRIS. Please contact the IDEpi section at (504) 568-8313 to learn more about the system or to have an account created.

- Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) – cases of STDs may be reported using the STD-43 form. If you are reporting a case of syphilis with active lesions it must be reported by phone within one business day to (504) 568-7474.
- HIV/AIDS – any cases of HIV/AIDS should be reported by phone to (504) 568-7474. More information on this is available at [www.hiv.dhh.louisiana.gov](http://www.hiv.dhh.louisiana.gov)
- Tuberculosis (TB) – the CDC72.5 form may be used to report any cases of TB.
- Infectious Disease Epidemiology (IDEpi) – all other infectious diseases should be reported to the IDEpi section using the Confidential Disease Case Report form (EPI-2430).

The appropriate Surveillance Epidemiologist shall obtain all additional information necessary to complete the case investigation. The Regional Immunization Consultant will also be contacted regarding any measles, mumps, rubella, or varicella reports to ensure that outbreak control procedures are in place as soon as possible. The Immunization Consultant is responsible for outbreak control procedures for measles, mumps, rubella and varicella.

In the case that a condition must be reported immediately, physicians can utilize a 24-hour toll free telephone line to reach the IDEpi Section: 1-800-256-2748. An on-call epidemiologist is available 24 hours, 7 days a week. Any external partners who wish to report diseases by fax may send a secure fax to the IDEpi section at (504) 568-8290. All information obtained by the aforementioned methods will be shared with the appropriate regional and program area staff.

The Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section sends case notifications to CDC for nationally notifiable conditions on a daily basis through the CDC-developed NEDSS Base System (NBS).

Surveillance Epidemiologists ensure that external partners in their region(s) (e.g., hospitals,

clinics, physicians) have access to the most updated version of the Sanitary Code and know how to report any suspected communicable disease. Regional staff (Surveillance Epidemiologists and Immunizations Consultants) are to identify those external partners who are most likely to see patients with communicable diseases (family practice, internal medicine, obstetrics, pediatrics, infectious disease, and others) for this purpose.

Reporting inquiries are to be directed to the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section at (504) 568-8313.

Mailing address:      Infectious Disease Epidemiology  
                                 1450 Poydras St., Ste 2155  
                                 New Orleans, LA 70112

Additional guidance for the surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases can be found in CDC's Manual for the Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases available at:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/surv-manual/index.html>