



Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Health



Center for Policy, Planning and Evaluation Administration
Division of Epidemiology – Disease Surveillance and Investigation

July 5, 2017

Health Notice for District of Columbia Health Care Providers and Healthcare Facility Staff
Updated Reporting Requirements for Notifiable Diseases and Conditions

Summary

The District of Columbia Department of Health (DOH) relies on various partners, including healthcare providers and staff, school nurses, veterinarians, and laboratory staff to provide us with information about illnesses that can spread in the community or are of public health concern. We use this information to monitor the health of District residents, identify and investigate potential outbreaks, evaluate the effectiveness of public health interventions, and contribute to national surveillance data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). To help prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases in DC, **all healthcare providers, veterinarians, or other persons in charge of a communicable disease case patient are required by law to report certain diseases and conditions (“notifiable diseases and conditions”)** to DC DOH according to [Chapter 22-B2 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations](#) (DCMR). This Health Notice describes important updates about the requirements and process for case reporting.

Background

In December 2016, revisions to DCMR Chapter 22-B2 “Communicable and Reportable Diseases” sections 22-B200-204 and 22-B208 went into effect. These sections describe general provisions, communicable disease surveillance, isolation and quarantine, reporting requirements, rabies and animal bites, ringworm of the scalp, and healthcare-associated infections. In addition to the rule revisions, **the forms and methods to report cases to DOH have been recently updated.** There is new guidance that should be taken into account by all healthcare facility staff involved in the reporting process.

Notifiable Diseases and Conditions in DC

- All healthcare providers, veterinarians, or other persons in charge of a communicable disease case patient are required by law to report certain diseases and conditions.
- The list of notifiable diseases and conditions required to be reported and timeframe for reporting (DCMR Section 22-B202) is available on our website: <http://doh.dc.gov/service/infectious-diseases>.
- For cases of **highly contagious diseases** (i.e., vaccine-preventable diseases), **even suspect cases, should be reported to DOH** so that infection control efforts can be started **immediately**.
- Emerging infectious diseases, unusual occurrences of any disease, or an infections or outbreaks that may be of public health concern must be reported.

Case Report Forms

- Information about persons with notifiable diseases and conditions should be reported to DOH by submitting a case report form and relevant supplementary materials (e.g., visit notes, laboratory reports).

Reporting Notifiable Diseases and Conditions to DOH

- Case report forms and reporting processes, and required timelines for reporting notifiable diseases and conditions to DC DOH vary by pathogen. **Please see the guidance included in this notice or on our website for reporting guidance, timelines, and criteria by pathogen.**
- Detailed guidance documents summarizing what and how to report cases can be found on our website: <https://doh.dc.gov/service/infectious-diseases>
 - **Periodically review our website** to ensure you are using the correct case report form to submit information to DOH and are aware of any updates to the reporting process

The DC DOH **Division of Epidemiology–Disease Surveillance and Investigation (DE-DSI)** reviews case report forms for Zika virus disease, animal bites, and all other notifiable diseases and conditions except HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, STDs, and tuberculosis

- **All** case report forms and supplemental documents should be submitted to DE-DSI **online** using **DC Reporting and Surveillance Center (DCRC)**, our new online reporting system at: <https://doh.dc.gov/service/infectious-diseases>
 - Report Zika virus disease using the **Zika Test Request and Reporting Form**
 - Report animal bites online using the **Animal Bite Report Form**
 - Report all other diseases and conditions managed by DE-DSI (including healthcare-associated infection [HAI] outbreaks) online using the **Notifiable Disease and Condition Case Report Form**
 - Healthcare facilities should report **individual** HAI cases to CDC’s National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN): <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/>
- If there is a need for **immediate** assistance (i.e., emerging pathogen such as Ebola virus, highly contagious diseases) from a DE-DSI epidemiologist outside of business hours (weekdays, 8:15am–4:45pm), please call 1-(844)-493-2652. This number should **NOT** be used for routine reporting or non-urgent matters.

The DC DOH **HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, and STD Administration (HAHSTA)** reviews case report forms for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis, and STDs.

- The case report form for reporting HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and C, and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and guidance for how to report cases (by fax or mail) can be accessed online: <https://doh.dc.gov/publication/hahsta-notifiable-disease-report-form>.
- The case report form for tuberculosis can be accessed online and should be submitted by fax: <https://doh.dc.gov/publication/tb-case-report-form>

Why is reporting notifiable diseases and conditions important?

Here are just a few ways we use the information:

- To notify people who have been in contact with persons with communicable diseases (contact tracing) and discuss ways to prevent or reduce their risk of illness
- To share health education information with the patient, including how to protect against spreading disease to their household members, co-workers, and other contacts
- To coordinate consultations between healthcare providers and subject matter experts, like the CDC, regarding clinical management, outbreak or cluster investigations, and other challenging issues

- To detect clusters or outbreaks that may be due to common exposures and implement control measures
- To develop targeted messages to share with our stakeholders, such as disease prevention among persons at high risk for a disease, and awareness of an increased incidence of specific disease in DC with healthcare providers

Please contact us for more information:

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**DC DOH HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, and
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