

Office of Public Health

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:
Disease Reporting in Louisiana**

September 2003

Dear Colleague:

We would like to remind you about the importance of reporting communicable diseases. In light of recent events, the importance of enhancing surveillance for infectious disease and illnesses compatible with biological/chemical events cannot be overstated. The list of reportable diseases and conditions is currently being amended to include selected biological agents that might be used in a terrorist event (see attached). In Louisiana, disease surveillance rests on reporting to the *Office of Public Health (OPH)*. All health care providers, including physicians, hospitals, and laboratories are required by law to report. The confidentiality of reports is protected by state law. The reports are used in several ways:

- The surveillance data are used by *OPH* and various other health care providers for health planning, policy making, and research.
- Individual case reports of certain diseases – such as tuberculosis and syphilis – receive follow-up by *OPH* to ensure that patients receive appropriate medical treatment and that their contacts receive appropriate preventive therapy.
- Reports of some infectious diseases such as measles, salmonellosis, and vibrio infections can lead to identification of disease outbreaks that can then be controlled.
- Reports also can be used to identify groups at high risk, prompting intervention efforts targeted at those groups.
- Summaries of surveillance data are presented in our bimonthly newsletter, *The Louisiana Morbidity Report*, and in our *Annual Summary Report*.
- Rapid notification of potential bioterrorist events.

For easier reporting, we have installed a toll-free number for reporting diseases (1 800-256-2748). You can report by mailing a green EPI-2430 card or by facsimile transmission (504-568-5006) or <https://ophrdd.dhh.state.la.us>. All facsimile transmissions are considered as part of the confidential disease case report, and as such, are not subject to disclosure. A website for OPH has been developed which includes the Louisiana Morbidity Report and 1998 Annual Summary (www.oph.dhh.state.la.us/infectiousdisease/index.html.)

Thank you for your interest in the health of Louisiana's citizens.

Sincerely,



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State Epidemiologist

Sanitary Code
State of Louisiana
Chapter II
The Control of Disease

2:003 The following diseases/conditions are hereby declared reportable with reporting requirements by Class:

Class A Diseases/Conditions - Reporting Required Within 24 Hours

Diseases of major public health concern because of the severity of disease and potential for epidemic spread-report by telephone immediately upon recognition that a case, a suspected case, or a positive laboratory result is known; [in addition, all cases of rare or exotic communicable diseases, unexplained death, unusual cluster of disease and all outbreaks shall be reported.]

Anthrax	Neisseria meningitidis (invasive disease)	Smallpox
Botulism	Plague	Staphylococcus Aureus, Vancomycin Resistant
Brucellosis	Poliomyelitis, paralytic	Tularemia
Cholera	Q Fever	Viral Hemorrhagic Fever
Diphtheria	Rabies (animal & man)	Yellow Fever
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	Rubella (German measles)	
Measles (rubeola)	Rubella (congenital syndrome)	

Class B Diseases/Conditions - Reporting Required Within 1 Business Day

Diseases of public health concern needing timely response because of potential of epidemic spread-report by the end of the next business day after the existence of a case, a suspected case, or a positive laboratory result is known.

Aseptic meningitis	Hepatitis B (carriage)	Salmonellosis
Chancroid¹	Hepatitis B (perinatal infection)	Shigellosis
E. Coli 0157:H7	Hepatitis E	Syphilis¹
E. Coli Enterohemorrhagic (other)	Herpes (neonatal)	Tetanus
Encephalitis, Arthropod borne	Legionellosis (acute disease)	Tuberculosis²
Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	Malaria	Typhoid Fever
Hemolytic-Uremic Syndrome	Mumps	
Hepatitis A (acute disease)	Pertussis	

Class C Diseases/Conditions - Reporting Required Within 5 Business Days

Diseases of significant public health concern-report by the end of the workweek after the existence of a case, suspected case, or a positive laboratory result is known.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	Hepatitis C (acute and infection)	Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome
Blastomycosis	Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV infection)	Streptococcus Pneumoniae [invasive infection, penicillin resistant (DRSP)]
Campylobacteriosis	Listeria	
Chlamydial infection¹	Lyme Disease	
Coccidioidomycosis	Lymphogranuloma Venereum¹	Streptococcus Pneumoniae (invasive infection in children < 5 years of age)
Cryptosporidiosis	Psittacosis	Trichinosis
Cyclosporiasis	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF)	Varicella (chickenpox)
Dengue	Staphylococcus Aureus, Methicillin/Oxacillin Resistant (MRSA) (invasive disease)	Vibrio Infections (other than cholera)
Ehrlichiosis	Staphylococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome	West Nile Fever
Enterococcus, Vancomycin Resistant (VRE) (invasive disease)	Streptococcal disease, Group A (invasive disease)	West Nile Infection (past or present)
Giardia	Streptococcal disease, Group B (invasive disease)	
Gonorrhea¹		
Hansen's Disease (leprosy)		
Hepatitis B (acute)		

Other Reportable Conditions

Cancer	Phenylketonuria*	Spinal Cord Injury**
Complications of Abortion	Reye's Syndrome	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
Congenital Hypothyroidism*	Severe Traumatic Head Injury**	
Galactosemia*	Severe Undernutrition (severe anemia, failure to thrive)	
Hemophilia*	Sickle Cell Disease (newborns)*	
Lead Poisoning		

Case reports not requiring special reporting instructions (see below) can be reported by Confidential Disease Case Report forms (2430), facsimile, phone reports, web base at <https://ophrdd.dhh.state.la.us>.

¹Report on STD-43 form. Report cases of syphilis with active lesions by telephone.

²Report on CDC72.5 (f.5.2431) card.

*Report to the Louisiana Genetic Diseases Program Office by telephone (504) 568-5070 or FAX (504) 568-7722.

**Report on DDP-3 form; preliminary phone report from ER encouraged (504) 568-2509. Information contained in reports required under this section shall remain confidential in accordance with the law.