



Thurston County Public Health
& Social Services Department
Epidemiology, Assessment and
Planning
412 Lilly Rd NE
Olympia, WA 98506-5132
TDD 360-867-2603

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PARTNERS IN DISEASE CONTROL AND CHANGES TO WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department receives over 1500 reports of notifiable conditions, vaccine preventable diseases and sexually transmitted diseases in Thurston County residents each year. Health care providers, labs, health care facilities, schools veterinarians, and child care centers who report notifiable conditions to this Department form the foundation of our public health surveillance system and disease control activities. Collectively you all are the eyes and ears of the system. **THANK YOU!** Without you taking time to report cases of suspect and confirmed disease we could not do the work we do to control the spread of communicable disease in the community. The earlier we receive reports of cases the sooner we can interview, follow-up, provide educational information, and implement appropriate prevention and intervention actions with cases and contacts to curtail transmission and reduce further morbidity.

Each notifiable condition reporter plays a critical role in the notifiable condition surveillance system. Each category of provider has a different set of conditions they are responsible for reporting under Washington Administrative Code 246-101. Please do not depend on someone else to report the case or it may go unreported. The further from an individual's onset of illness we are the harder it is for us to intervene and prevent the spread of communicable conditions.

Some suspect or confirmed conditions that are **immediately reportable** to the health department that you may not be aware of include:

- E.coli, Hepatitis A, Measles, Meningococcal Disease, Pertussis, Rubella, Salmonella, Shigella, and Tuberculosis.
- Unexplained critical illness or death.
- Rare diseases of public health significance.
- Clusters of food or waterborne illness.
- Clusters of illness that may signify an outbreak.
- Diseases of suspected bioterrorism origin.

NOTIFIABLE CONDITION POSTERS

The following web links take you to the current notifiable condition poster for each category of reporter. If you need a printed poster contact us.

Notifiable Conditions and Health Care Providers
www.doh.wa.gov/notify/other/providerposter2005.pdf

Notifiable Conditions and Washington's Labs
www.doh.wa.gov/notify/other/labposter.pdf

Notifiable Conditions and Washington's Hospitals
www.doh.wa.gov/notify/other/hospitalposter2005.pdf

Notifiable Conditions and the Veterinarian
www.doh.wa.gov/notify/other/veterinaryposter2005.pdf

GENERAL NOTIFIABLE CONDITION INFORMATION

General information about notifiable conditions in Washington can be found at www.doh.wa.gov/notify/. The site has helpful information about Washington disease incidence, links to the Washington Administrative Code, purpose of reporting and surveillance, reporting requirements, case definitions, disease guidelines, and contact information.

THURSTON COUNTY NOTIFIABLE CONDITION REPORTING INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL NOTIFIABLE CONDITION REPORTING LINE (24 hour automated reporting line)
360-786-5470

To report a case, leave the following information about the patient

- Name of the condition you are reporting
- Patient's name
- Patient's address and phone
- Diagnosing physician's name and phone #
- Patient's date of birth
- Treatment prescribed
- Patient's occupation, travel history

Please inform the patient about their test results and condition and let them know the health department will contact them for follow-up.

REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS - If you need to speak with someone about a notifiable condition during regular business hours please call 360-867-2672.

AFTER HOURS – If you need to speak to someone about a public health **EMERGENCY OR AN IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIABLE CONDITION** in Thurston County, try local health first, call 911 and ask to have the Health Officer call you back.

If no one is available at the Thurston County Public Health Department or through 911 and you are calling to report a condition that is **IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIABLE**, please call 877-539-4344.

CHANGES TO THE WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
AFFECTING PROVIDER CARE FOR HIV/AIDS IN 2010

New regulations effective January 16, 2010 change health care provider responsibilities toward sexual or needle sharing partners of persons newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Changes summarized below affect: partner notification, laboratory screening and reporting and counseling standards. For more detailed information see www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/HIV_AIDS/Prev_Edu/policyreview.htm

Partner notification
WAC 246-100-036 and WAC 246-100-072

- Public Health will contact the HIV- infected person to provide assistance with partner notification, post test counseling, and referral to appropriate support services. Principal healthcare provider needs to inform patient Public Health will contact them.
- Public Health will initiate contact with all newly diagnosed persons and attempt to notify their partners after receiving the case report.
- Public Health will attempt to contact the principal healthcare provider within three working days (previously seven days) upon receiving a report of previously unreported case of HIV infection to assess best means of conducting Partner Notification.

The rule for reporting HIV cases remains unchanged. Providers must report newly diagnosed cases of HIV to Public Health within three days.

Ordering laboratory screening and reporting
WAC 246-100-207

Any person ordering an HIV test will:

- Obtain the informed consent of the person being tested. The consent can be verbal or in writing.
- Offer the person an opportunity to ask questions about HIV testing.
- Offer the person an opportunity to decline testing.
- If the HIV test is positive, provide the name of the individual and locating information to Public Health for post-test counseling as required by WAC 246-100-209.

The requirement for health care providers to offer or refer for pretest counseling is eliminated.

Counseling standards (WAC-246-100-208)

- Principal healthcare providers shall counsel or ensure that HIV/AIDS counseling as defined in WAC 246-100-011(2) is provided to all HIV-positive pregnant women continuing their pregnancies.
- The principal healthcare provider shall obtain informed consent of the pregnant woman, either for a separate HIV test or for a panel of tests that includes and HIV test and:
 - Offer the pregnant woman an opportunity to ask questions and provide testing unless the pregnant woman refuses to give consent.
 - If a pregnant woman refuses to give consent for HIV testing, then discuss her reasons for refusal and document in medical record.

Partner notification, laboratory screening and reporting changes noted above also apply to HIV positive pregnant women.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
STAFF

We strive to be a resource for the community. If you have questions or need help, contact us.

Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH, Health Officer, 360-867-2501

Communicable Disease/TB – Dolores Dorffeld
360-867-2533

Chronic Disease Prevention – Chris Hawkins
360-867-2513

Emergency Preparedness, Marianne Remy,
360-867-2524

Immunizations, Christy Gustafson, 360-867-2534

Medical Reserve Corp – Sue Poyner, 360-867-2551

STD's/HIV – Monica Lyons, 360-867-2536

Travel Clinic – Callie Wilson, 360-867-2539

NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS REPORTED IN THURSTON
COUNTY

Selected Reported Thurston County Notifiable Conditions				
	Cases Reported in December		Cases Reported through December	
	2008	2009*	2008	2009*
Campylobacter	2	2	52	30
Chlamydial Infections	44	39	767	708
Cryptosporidium	0	0	0	0
E.coli	0	0	5	12
Foodborne Disease Cases	0	0	6	0
Foodborne Disease Outbreaks	0	0	1	0
Giardia	1	1	17	24
Gonorrhea	3	2	46	26
Haemophilus influenzae	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis A	0	0	1	2
Hepatitis B	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis C	0	0	0	0
Herpes, genital (primary)	7	3	89	82
Measles	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal	0	0	2	1
Mumps	0	0	0	3
Pertussis	0	0	3	6
Rabies, Bat	0	0	1	1
Rubella	0	0	0	0
Salmonella	2	2	26	34
Shigella	0	0	5	1
Syphilis EL	0	0	0	0
Syphilis L/LL	0	0	3	1
Syphilis Primary & Secondary	0	0	2	2
Syphilis Total	0	0	6	3
Tuberculosis	0	0	5	8

*2009 case counts are preliminary pending year end close out of cases.

NEWSLETTER

If you have questions about this newsletter or would like to request it in an alternative format please contact:

Jeanie Knight, Epidemiologist, 360-867-2535

For additional copies of this issue or to view past issues online visit: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/admin/news

For additional information visit our website at: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health