

5/16/2011

Revisions to the Washington State Notifiable Conditions Rule

Action requested:

Awareness of a revision to the Washington State Notifiable Conditions Rule (WAC 246-101) for health care providers, health care facilities and laboratories that went into effect February 4, 2011.

Summary of Major Changes - Health Care Providers, Health Care Facilities and Laboratory

- **Newly notifiable conditions include;** prion disease, lab-confirmed influenza-associated death, and varicella-associated death.
- **No longer reportable notifiable conditions include;** Low-risk animal bites that are not suspected rabies exposures, Typhus, and hemolytic uremic syndrome. Hemolytic uremic syndrome is now included in the reporting of Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli*.
- **Immediately reported rare diseases** are now listed individually (e.g. anthrax, *Burkholderia*, smallpox, etc).
- **Provision of patient identifying information** (including at least zip code of residence) to clinical laboratories when ordering lab tests for a notifiable condition.
- **Newly created reporting category (reportable within 24 hours)**, some conditions have changed from immediately reportable and reportable within 3 business days to reportable within 24 hours.
- **Notifiable conditions list for laboratories** is more consistent with the list of notifiable conditions for health care providers and health care facilities. **Some specimen submission requirements have been added.**
- **Report immediately notifiable conditions in Thurston County residents to Public Health by calling 360 867-2500 during business hours and asking to talk to Communicable Disease or Imms staff; after hours call 911 to report an immediately reportable condition or public health emergency and ask them to connect you with the Health Officer.**

Background

Washington's Notifiable Conditions Rule describes the legal requirements of health care providers, health care facilities, laboratories, veterinarians, food service establishments, child day care facilities, and schools to notify public health authorities at their local health jurisdiction of suspected or confirmed cases of selected diseases or conditions. Revisions to the rule took place in February 2011.

Resources

Disease reporting requirements in Thurston County and Washington State:

<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/personalhealth/communicabledisease/report.html>

Sections of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) pertaining to notifiable conditions:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/notify/other/legal.htm>

Notifiable reporting posters for Health Care Providers, Health Care Facilities, Laboratories, and Veterinarians can be found at: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/notify/forms/>

Report all non-immediately reportable notifiable conditions to the Thurston County Public Health Department 24 hour recorded line at 360-786-5470. **Call immediately reportable conditions during business hours** to 360-867-2500 and ask them to connect you to Communicable Disease or Imms staff. If calling to report an **immediately reportable or public health emergency after business hours** call 911 and ask them to contact you to the Health Officer.

Thank you for your continued support and help protecting the public's health. Without your diligence reporting notifiable conditions, our job of managing them in the Thurston County community would be considerably more difficult.