



2/17/2010

*NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

**TO: Thurston County Public Health Partners**  
**RE: Reporting Requirements when Treating HIV Positive Pregnant Women**

With the improvement in therapeutics available to HIV positive individuals, many individuals are now living longer, more productive and healthier lives with their HIV infection. Though we continue to see HIV among male homosexuals, the incidence of HIV is also much higher among Afro-Americans, Hispanics and heterosexual women.

My public health responsibility includes controlling and decreasing the transmission of all contagious diseases. Timely and accurate reporting of notifiable conditions by health care providers is one of the ways that I become aware of disease spread in the community. Notification in a timely manner allows me to take measures necessary to stop further spread of disease, to provide information to persons who may have been exposed and to offer prophylactic treatment if it were available.

HIV in pregnant women is one of the conditions that pose confusion regarding reporting of disease. Most of the time, the HIV condition has been diagnosed or is known and under "treatment" or being followed on a regular basis. The unique position during pregnancy is that there is a new individual potentially exposed to HIV, the fetus or newborn. In order to follow the risk of vertical transmission of HIV from mother to child, it is important that we are notified when you first encounter a pregnant woman with HIV, even if you did not make the diagnosis of HIV.

I am requesting that you notify the Health Department by calling our 24 hour recorded reporting line at 360-786-5470 whenever you:

- 1) See a pregnant woman for the first time and become aware that she is HIV positive, regardless of treatment or length of time she has had the diagnosis, or
- 2) Treat a patient with HIV and find out that she is pregnant, or
- 3) See a child for the first time that was born to a mother who is HIV positive.

The redundant reports will help ensure that no cases are missed.

For detailed information about changes to the Washington Administrative Code affecting provider care for patients with HIV in 2010 see:

[www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/HIV\\_AIDS/Prev\\_Edu/policyreview.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/HIV_AIDS/Prev_Edu/policyreview.htm) or  
[www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/admin/news/PDF/Jan2010EpiINFO.pdf](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/admin/news/PDF/Jan2010EpiINFO.pdf)

**Report Cases to the Confidential Notifiable Condition Reporting Line (24 hour recorded reporting line) 360-786-5470**

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