



Bulletin No. 1

February 6, 1998

Proposed Changes in Disease Reporting Regulations and
Regulations Dealing With Control of Diseases of Public Health Significance

7 AAC 27.005 Regarding required reporting by health care providers is proposed to be amended as follows:

The list is modified to use consistent terminology when referring to diseases and conditions by replacing condition and pathogen names with disease names and by eliminating the distinction between common and rare diseases.

The list is expanded to require reporting of additional diseases including human immunodeficiency virus infection (HIV), cyclospora, *E. coli* O157:H7, blood or CSF infection caused by any type of *Haemophilus influenzae* (including nontypable) and *Neisseria meningitidis*. Smallpox and encephalitis are removed from the list of diseases required to be reported.

The regulation is amended to clarify that disease outbreaks or the unusual occurrence of infectious diseases must be reported for any infectious disease, not just those specified in the sections; and to require reporting within 5 working days allowing health care providers to submit reports of disease by electronic means, and to require that certain public health emergencies must be reported immediately by telephone.

Ethnicity is added to the demographic variables which would be reported.

7 AAC 27.007 Regarding reporting by laboratories is proposed to be amended as follows:

The list is modified to use consistent terminology for pathogens.

A requirement is added for laboratories to report test results on specimens obtained within Alaska.

The list is expanded to require reporting of additional diseases, including invasive infection caused *H. influenzae* or *N. meningitidis*, paralytic shellfish poison, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), cyclospora, viral causes of meningitis, and *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis*.

Meningitis, smallpox, and typhus are removed from the list of diseases required to be reported.

Telephonic and electronic transmission are added as acceptable methods for reporting.

Reports are required to be made within 5 working days, except for public health emergencies which must be reported immediately by telephone.

Date of birth, sex, race and ethnicity are added as reportable variables.

7 AAC 27.010 Regarding Control of Communicable Diseases in Man is proposed to be amended to correct the title of the manual adopted by reference.

7 AAC 27.011 Regarding the cancer registry is proposed to be amended to include reporting of cancer screening, to delete in-situ carcinoma of the cervix uteri, to correct typographical errors, and to add ethnicity as an element to be reported.

7 AAC 27.012 Regarding birth defects registry is proposed to be amended to require reporting for patients up to 1 year of age except for ICD-9 codes 760 and 760.71 pertaining to alcohol effects on the fetus and fetal alcohol syndrome that will continue to be reportable up to 6 years of age; ethnicity will be added as an element to be reported, and typographical errors will be corrected.

7 AAC 27.013 Regarding reporting firearm injuries is proposed to be amended by changing the time period for reporting injuries, adding geographic location of occurrence and ethnicity to elements required to be reported, and deleting place of birth from reporting requirements.

7 AAC 27.014 Regarding Blood Lead Test Results is proposed to be amended by requiring ethnicity to be reported and by correcting a typographical error in the abbreviation for micrograms per deciliter.

7 AAC 27.020 Regarding Control of Animal Diseases Transmissible to Man is proposed to be amended by removing reference to the Department of Natural Resources involvement in quarantine determination, and adding several facilities and locations that can be used to confine animals during a quarantine. The Compendium of Animal Rabies Control adopted by reference is updated. The requirement that free-ranging wild animals that bite persons be tested for rabies will be changed to apply to bats and free ranging carnivorous wild animals. The term "destroyed" is replaced with euthanized. A provision is added to establish that the department may euthanize an unvaccinated dog or cat bitten by a suspected rabid animal, and to clarify that prior rabies vaccination of any animal may not preclude euthanasia if the period of virus shedding is unknown for that species.

7 AAC 27.080 Regarding Quarantine of Aviaries or Pet Shops is proposed to be repealed.

7 AAC 27.213 Regarding Tuberculosis Skin Test is proposed to be amended to reduce the mandatory requirement for annual skin testing in grades one, three, and eleven and to establish that the division of public health may require testing in all grades in certain school systems if evidence exists that there is increased risk of spread of tuberculosis in a particular community or region.

The regulation is amended to change the testing requirement to require an intradermal purified protein derivative (PPD) test. Schools will no longer be required to mail skin test results to parents or guardians. Gender specific language will be removed.

7 AAC 27.900 Regarding definitions is proposed to be amended to define health care providers to mean licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced nurse practitioner or nurse.

Any person may present written statements or arguments relevant to the proposed action by writing to the Section of Epidemiology, 3601 C Street, Suite 540, PO Box 240249, Anchorage, AK 99524-0249, so that they are received no later than April 10, 1998. Additionally, any interested person may present oral or written comments relevant to the proposed action, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed action, at a hearing to be held in Room 515, Frontier Building, 3601 C Street, Anchorage, AK, at 5:00 pm on March 25, 1998. The hearing will be held from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm and might be extended to accommodate those present before 8:00 pm who do not have an opportunity to testify. Also, any oral testimony may be presented on March 26, 1998, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm by calling toll free 1-888-869-5955.

Copies of the proposed regulations may be obtained by writing to the Section of Epidemiology, 3601 C Street, Suite 540, PO Box 240249, Anchorage, AK 99524-0249, by calling 907-269-8000, by faxing 907-561-6588, or by e-mailing to epiwebmaster@health.state.ak.us.