

*State of Alaska
Epidemiology*



Bulletin

**Recommendations
and
Reports**

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Infectious Diseases Reportable to the Alaska Division of Public Health Update – January 2007

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Introduction

In July 2006, the Department of Health and Social Services conducted a comprehensive review and update of the Alaska public health regulations (found in *Title 7, Health and Social Services, Chapter 27*)¹ in order to enable the Department to more effectively address current public health issues. The updated regulations became **effective on December 29, 2006**, and several infectious diseases/pathogens were added to the list of reportable conditions. Brief justifications for the additions are provided below, and the complete lists of diseases/pathogens now reportable by Alaska health care providers and laboratories are provided (see insert). A new *Conditions Reportable to Public Health* booklet is in publication and will reflect these and other reporting regulation changes.

New Infectious Diseases Reportable by Health Care Providers

- Chancroid (*Haemophilus ducreyi*). Added to fulfill national reporting recommendations.
- *Chlamydia trachomatis* infection. Changed from “chlamydial infection” to eliminate the need for reporting *C. pneumoniae* infections.
- Hemorrhagic fever. Added due to concerns about infection in returning travelers.
- Listeriosis (*Listeria monocytogenes*). Added because early detection and reporting of listeriosis outbreaks can help identify sources of foodborne infection and prevent additional cases.
- Prion diseases. Added to monitor for these diseases, which can cause progressive and fatal neurodegenerative disorders.
- Q fever (*Coxiella burnetii*). Added because early detection and reporting of Q fever outbreaks can help identify sources of infection and prevent additional cases of this disease, caused by a Category B bioterrorism agent.
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Made reportable by emergency regulations passed in May 2003. Concern exists that SARS could reemerge again someday.
- Smallpox. Added due to bioterrorism concerns.
- *Streptococcus agalactiae* (Group B Strep), invasive disease. Added because Group B Strep is a leading cause of sepsis and meningitis in newborns. Will allow assessment of impact of screening programs.

- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (pneumococcus), invasive disease. Added to assess vaccine effects.
- *Streptococcus pyogenes* (Group A Strep), invasive disease and streptococcal toxic shock syndrome. Added to help recognize outbreaks of this invasive disease. Contacts may be offered prophylaxis in certain situations.
- *Vibrio* infection, including cholera. Expanded from *Vibrio cholerae* to address the recent emergence of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* infections in Alaska.
- Varicella (chickenpox). Added to assess vaccine effectiveness and to monitor for illness clusters.
- West Nile virus infection. Added to monitor for spread to Alaska.

New Infectious Disease Pathogens Reportable by Laboratories

- *Brucella* species. Broadened from single species, *B. abortus*, to capture all *Brucella* species. Brucellosis is a Category B bioterrorism disease.
- *Clostridium botulinum* and botulinum toxin. Broadened from *Clostridium botulinum* to capture cases where the toxin, but not the organism, is identified.
- *Coxiella burnetii*.*
- *Haemophilus ducreyi*.*
- *Legionella* species. Broadened from *Legionella pneumophila* to capture all species; there are at least 35 species currently recognized.
- *Listeria monocytogenes*.*
- Prions.*
- SARS-associated coronavirus.*
- Smallpox (variola) virus.*
- *Streptococcus agalactiae* from normally sterile body fluid or site.*
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* from normally sterile body fluid or site.*
- *Streptococcus pyogenes* from normally sterile body fluid or site.*
- Varicella virus.*
- *Vibrio* species.*
- West Nile virus.*

*See New Infectious Diseases Reportable by Health Care Providers list for justification.

Infectious Diseases Reportable by Health Care Providers*

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)	Plague
Anthrax	Poliomyelitis
Botulism	Prion diseases
Brucellosis	Psittacosis
Campylobacteriosis	Q fever
Chancroid	Rabies
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> infection	Rheumatic fever
Cholera (see <i>Vibrio</i>)	Rubella
Cryptosporidiosis	Salmonellosis
Cyclosporiasis	Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)
Diphtheria	Shigellosis
Echinococcosis	Smallpox
<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7 infection	<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i> (Group B streptococcus), invasive disease
Giardiasis	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> (pneumococcus), invasive disease
Gonorrhea	<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> (Group A streptococcus), invasive disease and streptococcal toxic shock syndrome
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> invasive disease	Syphilis
Hemorrhagic fever	Tetanus
Hepatitis (type A, B, or C)	Trichinosis
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection	Tuberculosis
Legionellosis (Legionnaires' disease or Pontiac Fever)	Tularemia
Leprosy (Hansen disease)	Typhoid fever
Listeriosis	Varicella (chickenpox)
Lyme disease	<i>Vibrio</i> infection, including cholera
Malaria	West Nile virus infection
Measles	Yellow fever
Meningococcal invasive disease	Yersiniosis
Mumps	
Paralytic shellfish poisoning	
Pertussis	

Outbreaks of diseases or other conditions of public health importance

An unusual incidence of confirmed or suspected infectious disease of public health importance

Reports should be made as soon as possible and must be made within 5 working days after first discovering or suspecting the existence of the disease. Call the Rapid Telephonic Reporting System at 561-4234 (Anchorage) or 800-478-1700 (statewide).

***Diseases shown in bold are public health emergencies that, if suspected or diagnosed, must be reported immediately by calling 907-269-8000 during business hours or 800-478-0084 after hours.**

Infectious Disease Pathogens Reportable by Laboratories*

<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	<i>Mycobacterium leprae</i>
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>
<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>
<i>Brucella</i> species	<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>
<i>Campylobacter</i> species	<i>Plasmodium</i> species
<i>Chlamydia psittaci</i>	Poliovirus
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	Prions
<i>Clostridium botulinum</i> or botulinum toxin	Rabies virus
<i>Clostridium tetani</i>	Rubella virus
<i>Corynebacterium diphtheriae</i>	<i>Salmonella</i> species
<i>Coxiella burnetii</i>	SARS-associated coronavirus
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> species	<i>Shigella</i> species
<i>Cyclospora</i>	Smallpox (variola) virus
<i>Echinococcus</i> species	<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i> from normally sterile body fluid or site
<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> from normally sterile body fluid or site
<i>Francisella tularensis</i>	<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> from normally sterile body fluid or site
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	<i>Treponema pallidum</i>
<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>	<i>Trichinella</i> species
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> from normally sterile body fluid or site	Varicella virus
Hemorrhagic fever viruses	<i>Vibrio</i> species
Hepatitis A, B, or C virus	West Nile virus
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	Yellow fever virus
Influenza virus	<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i> or <i>Y. pseudotuberculosis</i>
<i>Legionella</i> species	<i>Yersinia pestis</i>
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	
Measles (rubeola) virus	
Mumps virus	

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Infectious Disease Report Form (Including STDs)

Name of person making report:	
Institutional affiliation, if any: (e.g., Alaska Native Medical Center, etc.)	
Telephone number:	
Date of report:	
Name of attending health care provider:	
Name of reportable disease:	
Name of patient: (First)	(Last)
Address:	
Phone:	
Date of Birth: (mm/dd/yyyy)	
Sex: (circle one) Female Male	
Race: (circle one) White AI/AN Asian Black Hawaiian/Pac Islander Other	
Is patient of Hispanic ethnicity? (circle one) Yes No Unknown	
Date of illness onset OR diagnosis (whichever is earlier): (mm/dd/yyyy)	
Was diagnosis laboratory confirmed? (circle one) Yes No Unknown	
Date of specimen collection: (mm/dd/yyyy)	
For Reports of Chlamydial Infection, Gonorrhea, Syphilis or Chancroid Only:	
Medication:	
Date of treatment: (mm/dd/yyyy)	
Treatment duration: (How many days?)	
Pregnancy status: (circle one) Yes No Unknown; (if yes, _____ number of weeks)	
PID diagnosed? (circle one) Yes No Unknown	

Rapid Telephonic Reporting System

Anchorage Area – 561-4234

Outside Anchorage – 800-478-1700

FAX – 907-561-4239

For some reports, a Section of Epidemiology staff member will contact the reporting health care provider to discuss the case and obtain additional information. If further assistance is required, please call the Section of Epidemiology at 907-269-8000.

Reporting Numbers		
Public Health Emergencies:	During business hours	907-269-8000
	After business hours	800-478-0084
Other Reportable Diseases:	RTR Anchorage	561-4234
	RTR Statewide	800-478-1700
	Phone	907-269-8000
	Fax	907-561-4239

Reference

1. Department of Health and Social Services Changes to Regulations. Available at: <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/publicnotice/pdf/148.pdf>. Accessed on December 29, 2006.

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