

CLINICIAN ROLES IN AN EMERGENCY

Clinicians perform many roles during infectious disease emergencies. Many actions assist the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) with timely investigations and effective public health interventions. Other actions mitigate the need for patient treatment at acute care sites, address concerns of the worried well, and maintain continuity of care for patients ill with diseases unrelated to the emergency.

KEY CLINICIAN ROLES

1. Recognize an infectious disease emergency.

- See *What to Report* and *Unusual Conditions to Report* to learn more about what we consider infectious disease emergencies.
- See the *High Priority Disease* chapters and the “BT Syndrome Poster” to learn how to recognize certain critical diseases.

2. Respond appropriately including implementation of infection control measures, initiation of diagnostic testing and therapy and prophylaxis (if needed).

- Familiarize yourself with initial patient management protocols and infection control measures. See the *Infection Control* and *High Priority Disease* chapters.
- Visit and bookmark the Communicable Disease Control and Prevention website: www.sfdcp.org.
- Register to receive Health Alerts from SFDPH. See instructions in the appendix.

3. Report the incident to response partners.

- Keep SFDPH contact information and the names and contact information of your hospital infection control professionals handy.

SFDPH Communicable Disease Reporting



(415) 554-2830 24/7



(415) 554-2848 fax

EMERGENCY TO DO LIST

Initial Steps

- Implement infection control measures
 - If patient is in the hospital, notify Infection Control
- Notify SFDPH
- Notify your clinical lab and ensure appropriate specimens are obtained for routine and referral testing. Referral testing may be coordinated through the Public Health Lab system
- Initiate patient management
- If present, request that family and other contacts remain for public health interviews and prophylaxis if needed
- Ensure that family and contacts are educated about infection prevention
- If family or other close contacts are not present, obtain their contact information to provide to SFDPH

Subsequent Steps

- Follow incident progress and recommendations via SFDPH Health Alerts and/or our website: www.sfdcp.org
- Make sure that your family, your staff, and the families of your staff are safe
- Keep office open unless advised otherwise
- Educate patients about measures to prevent exposure and disease
- Assess and care for the worried well