

UNUSUAL CONDITIONS TO REPORT

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) depends on clinicians to identify and report cases of communicable diseases. Clinicians may be the first to see a potential outbreak in the making and their prompt notification to SFDPH enables us to investigate and begin disease control activities as soon as possible. For some diseases every hour makes a difference in preventing illness and death.

To improve our ability to control outbreaks the Sentinel Event Enhanced Passive Surveillance (SEEPS) Project works to strengthen clinicians' ability to identify emerging infectious diseases and those that may result from biological terrorism. Due to their deadlines it is particularly important that cases are recognized, diagnosed, and reported quickly. Knowing the clinical features and maintaining an index of suspicion for unusual cases and reporting them to SFDPH could save lives. Potentially unusual patterns of disease include:

- 1. Multiple similarly presenting cases, especially if these are geographically associated or closely clustered in time**
Example: persons who attended the same event or who work in the same building
- 2. An increase in a common syndrome occurring out of season**
Example: many cases of influenza-like illness in summer
- 3. An unusual age distribution for common diseases**
Example: many cases of chickenpox-like illness in adult patients expected to be immune
- 4. Serious, unexpected, unexplained acute illness with atypical host characteristics**
Examples: severe illness in a young patient without immunologic defects, underlying illness, recent travel or other exposure to a potential source of infection†

Due to their rarity, some of the following diseases and conditions may not be immediately recognizable. However, maintaining a reasonable index of suspicion and reporting unusual conditions could assist in treating patients and safeguarding the public.


IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION REQUIRED TO SFDPH (within one hour)

• Anthrax*	• Meningococcal infections	• Shiga toxin producing <i>E. coli</i> (STEC) including <i>E. coli</i> 0157	• Rabies
• Botulism*	• Measles	• Shiga toxin (in feces)	• Cholera
• Brucellosis*	• Avian Influenza	• Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	• Diarrhea of the Newborn (Outbreak)
• Plague*	• SARS	• Scombroid fish poisoning	• Any unusual diseases
• Smallpox*	• Diphtheria	• Ciguatera fish poisoning	• Outbreaks -any disease
• Tularemia*	• Hantavirus infections	• Paralytic shellfish poisoning	* Potential bioterrorism agents
• Viral hemorrhagic fevers*	• Yellow fever	• Domoic acid poisoning	

† MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2001 Oct 19;50(41):893-7.


COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTING


Urgent Reports 24/7

 (415) 554-2830


After hours, follow prompts to page the on-call physician

Non-urgent Reports

 (415) 554-2830

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