Health Update

June 27, 2018

Updated Confidential Morbidity Report Form and List of Reportable Diseases

The San Francisco Department of Public Health, Disease Prevention and Control Branch has updated the Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR). Please begin using the updated CMR immediately to fulfill your obligation to report selected communicable diseases, per the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Sections 2500, 2593, 2641-2643 and 2800-2812. It is available on our website at https://www.sfcdcp.org/communicable-disease/disease-reporting/

Clinicians are requested to:

1. **Review the list of reportable diseases and conditions and the updated Confidential Morbidity Report form (CMR).**
   - Upon diagnosing a reportable disease, complete the updated fillable CMR and fax to, or call, the designated program based on type of disease reported and the reporting time frame.
   - Please complete fields and download the CMR from the website each time, to ensure you are getting the most up to date form.
   - Complete new and updated fields in the CMR, including gender. Several new fields have been added.
   - Refer to webpage for detailed updates.
2. **Contact designated program on the List of Reportable Diseases and Conditions within requested time frame.**
   - Reports should contain all the information requested on the updated Confidential Morbidity Report form.
   - For detailed instructions and forms, go to https://www.sfcdcp.org/communicable-disease/disease-reporting/

Newly Reportable Diseases: Effective July 1, 2018

Parkinson's disease, Report to California Parkinson's Disease Registry.
   - Health care providers diagnosing or providing treatment to Parkinson's disease patients will be required to report each case of Parkinson's disease to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
   - Refer to CDPH's California Parkinson's Disease Registry Implementation Guide at www.cdph.ca.gov/parkinsons for specific reporting guidance.

Updated Reporting Time Frame:

Cancer, Report within 30 days.
   - Reports should be submitted to the California Cancer Registry. For detailed instructions and forms go to: http://www.ccrcal.org/

Frequently Asked Questions about Disease Reporting for Medical Providers

1. **Don't the laboratories report to SFDPH? Why do medical providers need to also report?**

   - When action is time-critical (e.g. meningococcal infections or measles), immediate reporting by providers prior to lab test confirmation enables SFDPH to identify disease exposures and arrange timely post-exposure prophylaxis.

   - It is the law (CCR, Title 17, Sections 2500, 2593, 2641-2643 and 2800-2812). Providers are required to report cases to the health department independently of laboratories.

   - Reporting requirements differ for providers and laboratories. The labs only report a subset of diseases that providers must report.

   - Laboratories are unable to report diseases that are clinically diagnosed (e.g. Scombroid fish poisoning, animal bites) or that are culture-negative (e.g. pre-treated bacterial meningitis).

   - Laboratories are often unable to provide key information such as patient contact information, treatment or pregnancy status.

2. **Does HIPAA allow medical providers to send patient data to SFDPH without obtaining specific patient authorization?**

   - Yes. Language in the HIPAA Privacy Rule, Section 164.512(b), specifically authorizes disclosures for public health purposes. The confidentiality of patient information is maintained once reported to SFDPH.

3. **How does the health department use the information?**

   - Most importantly, SFDPH initiates measures to protect the public from further disease exposure.

   - SFDPH evaluates patterns of disease incidence to identify outbreaks and interrupt disease transmission.

   - SFDPH facilitates specialized testing (e.g. *Clostridium botulinum* toxin assay, PCR in suspected culture-negative *Neisseria meningitidis*).

4. **How does reporting by medical providers help protect the public?**

   - SFDPH facilitates recommended treatment for patients with selected reportable diseases.

   - SFDPH can provide outreach and field-delivered therapy for patients with certain untreated infections.

   - Providers can request assistance with outreach on the CMR if they are unable to locate a patient in whom they've diagnosed a reportable sexually transmitted disease. Please include pertinent locating information (e.g. emergency contact) if the patient is homeless or marginally housed.

- SFDPH identifies contacts of persons with certain reportable diseases and arranges for vaccination or antimicrobial prophylaxis when indicated.

- Reporting allows for public health investigation to determine the potential source of the infection.

- SFDPH identifies persons with communicable diseases (especially enteric illnesses) who are in sensitive occupations or situations (food handlers, healthcare workers with direct patient contact, and day care personnel), and restricts them from food preparation or patient contact while infectious.

5. **How do I report an outbreak or suspected foodborne illness?**

- Report to the Communicable Disease Control Unit (CDCU) immediately by phone 415-554-2830.

6. **What if I have questions about animal bites or rabies prophylaxis?**

- To report animal bites: call Animal Care & Control Bite Division at 415-554-9422.

- For consultation regarding possible rabies exposures and need for prophylaxis: call CDCU at 415-554-2830.

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Go to https://www.sfcdcp.org/health-alerts-emergencies/health-alerts/register-for-health-alerts/ to sign up. Once you register, SFDPH will send you an email so that you can update your contact information, as needed.

Program Contact Information:

Disease Prevention and Control Branch

Communicable Disease Control: PH: 415-554-2830 Fax: 415-554-2848

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: PH: 415-487-5530   Fax: 415-431-4628

Tuberculosis Control: PH: 415-206-8524   Fax: 415-206-4565

HIV Reporting: PH: 415-437-6335