

**CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SERVICES**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
*Health Care Provider's Guide*



**February 2012**

**Communicable Disease Control Programs**  
**597 Center Avenue, Suite 200A, Martinez, CA 94553**

**Public Health Laboratory**  
**2500 Alhambra Avenue, Room 209, Martinez, CA 94553**  
**[www.cchealth.org](http://www.cchealth.org)**

# Communicable Disease General Information: 925-313-6740

## Communicable Disease Regulations

The Communicable Disease Control Program operates under the authority of the California State Department of Health Services and the California Administrative Code, Title 17, Section 2500 through 2540. Section 2500 states that in reporting to the local authority, "It shall be the duty of every health care provider, knowing of or in attendance on a case or suspected case of any of the diseases or conditions listed in subsection (j) of this section, to report to the local health officer for the jurisdiction where the patient resides . . ." In addition, Section 2505 requires notification by clinical laboratories to the health officer of the local health jurisdiction in which the health care provider who first submitted the specimen is located. **The Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) is available by calling 925-313-6740 or on our website at <http://cchealth.org/groups/cd/providers.php>**

### Reportable Communicable Diseases

- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)  
(HIV infection only: see "Human Immunodeficiency Virus")
  - FAX ① ☒ Amebiasis
  - ① ! Anaplasmosis/Ehrlichiosis
  - ① ! Anthrax, human or animal
  - FAX ① ☒ Babesiosis
  - ① ! Botulism (Infant, Foodborne, Wound, Other)
  - ① ! Brucellosis, animal (except infections due to *Brucella canis*)
  - ① ! Brucellosis, human
  - FAX ① ☒ Campylobacteriosis
  - Chancroid
  - FAX ① ☒ Chickenpox (Varicella) (only hospitalizations and deaths)
  - Chlamydia trachomatis infections, including lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV)
  - ① ! Cholera
  - ① ! Ciguatera Fish Poisoning
  - Coccidioidomycosis
  - Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) and other Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE)
  - FAX ① ☒ Cryptosporidiosis
  - Cyclosporiasis
  - Cysticercosis or taeniasis
  - ① ! Dengue
  - ① ! Diphtheria
  - ① ! Domoic Acid Poisoning (Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning)
  - FAX ① ☒ Encephalitis, Specify Etiology: Viral, Bacterial, Fungal, Parasitic
  - ① ! Escherichia coli: shiga toxin producing (STEC) including *E. coli* O157
  - \* FAX ① ☒ Foodborne Disease
  - Giardiasis
  - Gonococcal Infections
  - FAX ① ☒ Haemophilus influenzae, invasive disease (report an incident of less than 15 years of age)
  - ① ! Hantavirus Infections
  - ① ! Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome
  - FAX ① ☒ Hepatitis A, acute infection
  - Hepatitis B (specify acute case or chronic)
  - Hepatitis C (specify acute case or chronic)
  - Hepatitis D (Delta) (specify acute case or chronic)
  - Hepatitis E, acute infection
  - Influenza, deaths in laboratory-confirmed cases for age 0-64 years
  - Influenza, novel strains (human)
  - Legionellosis
  - Leprosy (Hansen Disease)
  - Leptospirosis
  - FAX ① ☒ Listeriosis
  - Lyme Disease
  - FAX ① ☒ Malaria
  - ① ! Measles (Rubeola)
  - FAX ① ☒ Meningitis, Specify Etiology: Viral, Bacterial, Fungal, Parasitic
  - ① ! Meningococcal Infections
  - Mumps
  - ① ! Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning
  - Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)
  - FAX ① ☒ Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
  - ① ! Plague, human or animal
  - FAX ① ☒ Poliovirus Infection
  - FAX ① ☒ Psittacosis
  - FAX ① ☒ Q Fever
  - ① ! Rabies, human or animal
  - FAX ① ☒ Relapsing Fever
  - Rickettsial Diseases (non-Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever), including Typhus and Typhus-like Illnesses
  - Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
  - Rubella (German Measles)
  - Rubella Syndrome, Congenital
  - FAX ① ☒ Salmonellosis (Other than Typhoid Fever)
  - ① ! Scombroid Fish Poisoning
  - ① ! Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
  - ① ! Shiga toxin (detected in feces)
  - FAX ① ☒ Shigellosis
  - ① ! Smallpox (Variola)
  - FAX ① ☒ Staphylococcus aureus infection (only a case resulting in death or admission to an intensive care unit of a person who has not been hospitalized or had surgery, dialysis, or residency in a long-term care facility in the past year, and did not have an indwelling catheter or percutaneous medical device at the time of culture)
  - FAX ① ☒ Streptococcal Infections (Outbreaks of Any Type and Individual Cases in Food Handlers and Dairy Workers Only)
  - FAX ① ☒ Syphilis
  - Tetanus
  - Toxic Shock Syndrome
  - FAX ① ☒ Trichinosis
  - FAX ① ☒ Tuberculosis
  - Tularemia, animal
  - ① ! Tularemia, human
  - FAX ① ☒ Typhoid Fever, Cases and Carriers
  - FAX ① ☒ Vibrio Infections
  - ① ! Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers, human or animal (e.g., Crimean-Congo, Ebola, Lassa, and Marburg viruses)
  - FAX ① ☒ West Nile virus (WNV) Infection
  - ① ! Yellow Fever
  - FAX ① ☒ Yersiniosis
  - ① ! OCCURRENCE of ANY UNUSUAL DISEASE
  - ① ! OUTBREAKS of ANY DISEASE (Including diseases not listed in § 2500).  
Specify if institutional and/or open community.
- Non-Communicable Diseases and Conditions**
- ▼ Cancer (except - 1) basal and squamous cell skin cancer unless occurring on the genitalia and 2) carcinoma in-situ and CIN III of the cervix)
  - ▼ Disorders characterized by lapses of consciousness
  - ▼ Pesticide-related illness or injury
  - ① ! = Report immediately by telephone.
  - \* = Report immediately by phone when two or more cases or suspected cases of foodborne disease from separate households are suspected to have the.
  - FAX ① ☒ = Report by electronic transmission, fax, phone or mail within one working day of identification.
  - = All other diseases/conditions should be reported by fax, phone or mail within seven calendar days of identification.

## **Confidential Morbidity Reports:**

For the most current versions of the Confidential Morbidity Report, visit the following website:

<http://cchealth.org/groups/cd/providers.php>

## **Communicable Disease Control (CD): 925-313-6740**

**For after hours emergencies, call Sheriff's Dispatch at 925-646-2441 and ask for the Health Officer on call.**

Consultation and information are available on all communicable diseases including hepatitis, vaccine preventable diseases, rabies, plague, enteric pathogens and other general CD problems. As ongoing surveillance, all salmonella, shigella and hepatitis cases are investigated to determine source, possible transmission and recommend contact prophylaxis. In addition, when restaurants or day care centers are involved, the CD section coordinates and directs epidemiological field investigation, working closely with Environmental Health and the Public Health Laboratory. The business/household is investigated to determine the source and implement measures to prevent further spread to individuals or the community. These measures may include specimen collection, exclusion from work or school and/or placement in isolation for the duration of communicability.

## **Rabies Control: 925-313-6740**

**For after hours consultation, call Sheriff's Dispatch at 925-646-2441 and ask for the Health Officer on call.**

CD shares joint responsibility with Animal Services in the surveillance, investigation and quarantine of animals suspected of having rabies or biter animals, for rabies control. All testing of animals is approved through the CD office and testing is done in the Public Health Laboratory. Education and prevention are of primary concern in rabies control. The education message includes: symptoms, information on prophylaxis, animal species at risk, how to avoid exposure and how to safeguard areas around the home. Vaccination of pets and avoidance of contact with wild animals is strongly encouraged.

**For animal bite reporting, please call Animal Services: Martinez 925-335-8300 or Pinole 510-374-3966.**

## **Immunizations: 925- 313-6767**

Public Health Immunization Clinics offer currently recommended immunizations for children, adolescents and adults. TB testing is not available at these clinics. For clinic times and locations in eight languages, please call **1-800-246-2494**. Clinic information is also available on our website at <http://cchealth.org/services/immunization/clinics.php>

Immunization Program staff is available for consultation, information and training about vaccines, immunization schedules for children, adolescents and adults, and vaccine storage and handling. We also offer Immunization Registry software to store immunization histories, record vaccines given including lot number, and recommend next vaccinations due dates.

## **Travel Immunizations: 925-313-6488**

Travel vaccines are available by appointment only. For information and to make an appointment, please call 925- 313-6488.

Information on travel vaccines available and prices is available on our website at

<http://cchealth.org/services/immunization/travel.php>

## **Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program: 925-313-6767**

Contra Costa County participates in the California Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program with the goal of eliminating Hepatitis B virus transmission between mother and baby. This program follows pregnant women who are hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive. This is to ensure appropriate immunoprophylaxis for infants born to these mothers and post-vaccination serologic tests and immunizations for susceptible household contacts. We encourage all providers, including obstetricians, to report pregnant women who test positive for the Hepatitis B virus to Public Health.

## **Health Emergency Response: 925-313-6740**

**For after hours emergencies, call Sheriff's Dispatch at 925-646-2441 and ask for the Health Officer on call.**

The Health Emergency Response Program develops and exercises emergency plans to prepare and respond to health emergencies and health consequences of disasters. Response plans include pandemic flu, bioterrorism, mass prophylaxis, medical needs sheltering, and crisis and emergency risk communications, among others. The Program is responsible for sending emergency notifications and alerts to physicians on disease outbreaks and emergent infections or health issues. In addition, the unit has a provider page on the Department's website, which gives detailed medical information on emergent diseases, treatment and laboratory specimen collection information: <http://ccchealth.org/topics/providers/>

## **Tuberculosis (TB): 925-313-6740**

The TB Control Program receives reports on all cases of TB. Physicians, laboratory directors and other providers are required by law to report confirmed and suspected cases of TB to Public Health within one working day of the diagnosis of TB or suspected TB. Reports must include the following information (if known): the date of onset, the date of diagnosis, the patient's name, address, telephone number, occupation, race, sex, date of birth, date of death (if applicable), diagnostic status, bacteriologic, radiologic, Interferon- $\gamma$  release assay (IGRA) and tuberculin skin test findings, information regarding the risk of transmission of the disease to other persons, a list of anti-TB medications prescribed and the contact information of the medical provider. Reports may be made by phone to 925-313-6740 or fax 925-313-6465. Providers are also required to make follow-up reports to Public Health upon request, and whenever a patient ceases treatment for TB disease prior to completion (H&S 121362).

In addition to case reporting, the law requires that patients with suspected or confirmed active TB may not be discharged or transferred from a health facility until a written discharge plan has been received and approved by Public Health, unless the transfer is due to an immediate need for a higher level of care or is to a correctional institution. The discharge plan must be submitted to Public Health as soon as possible, but not less than twenty-four hours prior to expected discharge and include updated clinical and bacteriologic status, all medications prescribed, a verified patient address and the name and address of the medical provider who will follow the patient. Public Health staff will review discharge plans within one working day and return to submitter. Additional information about requirements of the discharge plan and the required forms are available at our website <http://www.cchealth.org/topics/tb/providers.php> or by phone at 925-313-6740.

Public Health Nurses (PHN) provide case management and contact investigation to all patients with active TB. A PHN visits each patient throughout the course of treatment to promote and ensure adherence to and completion of therapy. In addition, the PHN provides testing to exposed contacts and if indicated assists contacts with further diagnostic appointments to rule out TB infection and/or disease.

We provide Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) for TB patients in Contra Costa, especially for those at risk of non-adherence. Medications are brought to the patient and ingestion is observed and documented by a Disease Investigator or PHN. Medication sheets are sent to the provider periodically, and on request. To promote and assist with adherence, transportation, food vouchers and other incentives are provided. We are happy to discuss necessity of DOT with providers and possible alternate arrangements. Please call us at 925-313-6740 if you would like to discuss your patient's therapy or the DOT program.

Latent TB Infection (LTBI): Providers are requested to report patients with LTBI, who are < 5 years of age. PHNs provide case management to promote adherence and completion of therapy for persons with LTBI.

Medical consultation is available regarding the management of patients. Please call 925-313-6740 if needed to discuss a specific case. More information for providers is available at our website <http://www.cchealth.org/topics/tb/providers.php>

## **Epidemiology, Surveillance and Health Data Unit (ESHD): 925-313-6323**

The Public Health Epidemiology unit is responsible for gathering and analyzing data and producing reports on this health data for Contra Costa County. Reports available to health care providers and the general public include: AIDS, tuberculosis and general communicable disease. This unit monitors and does active surveillance on specific diseases including AIDS and tuberculosis. More recently, the unit has added Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities to map disease occurrence, identify disease clusters or outbreaks and other related factors. County specific health data, analysis and reports are available via [www.cchealth.org/groups/epidemiology/](http://www.cchealth.org/groups/epidemiology/). For further information or requests for data, please call 925-313-6323 or a request may be faxed to 925-313-6344.

## **Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD): 925-313-6750**

The STD program has three evening clinics each week, which offer STD screening services for people 12 years of age and older. Patients are screened and treated for syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, trichomoniasis, herpes (when lesions are present) and other STDs. Please call (925) 313-6750 for an appointment and to advise clinic staff of special problems with a referred case or for consultation and information.

### **STD Clinic Locations:**

- **3052 Willow Pass Road, Concord - Tuesday**
- **2311 Loveridge Road, Pittsburg - Wednesday**
- **39th and Bissell, Richmond - Thursday**

**For clinic times call: 925-313-6750.**

Field investigation in the STD program involves locating and interviewing cases and contacts to diagnosed cases of syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea. When necessary, contacts are referred for diagnosis and treatment. All services are confidential.

## **HIV/AIDS: 925-313-6771**

The HSD AIDS Program serves Contra Costa residents by providing general community education about HIV and HIV/AIDS services, provides HIV/STD testing at key venues throughout the County and provides case surveillance. HIV+ clients may access a continuum of services that include: medical case management, legal assistance, substance abuse and mental health support, transportation, housing assistance and food assistance. Individuals with AIDS who have full scope MediCal may access the MediCal Waiver Nurse Case Management Program. A toll free number is available for a listing of services and resources. Please call 1-800-287-0200. A confidential message may be left anytime or an AIDS program receptionist is available from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at the general number 925-313-6771.

## **Services To People Living With HIV/AIDS**

Community-based case managers provide services for individuals who are not home bound and a nurse case management team provides services for individuals who are more ill and meet State eligibility criteria for enrollment in the nurse case management program.

Case managers have access to an array of low and no cost services funded in part by the Ryan White Program including enrollment in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program for low and no cost HIV medications. Some services may have income eligibility and other requirements. All services require a letter of diagnosis from a care provider. Contact 925-313-6771 for a resource guide or information.

## **HIV/STD Community Education And Prevention Services**

The AIDS/STD Program supports and coordinates community HIV and STD prevention efforts through risk reduction services to high-risk populations. HIV/AIDS educational materials, resource guides, and other risk reduction materials, and a list of Contra Costa pharmacies authorized to dispense a limited number of syringes without a prescription are available. Contact 925-313-6771 for a prevention resource guide or more information on prevention programs.

## **HIV Counseling And Testing**

Free, confidential HIV testing is offered with an oral rapid test. Standard oral testing (OraSure), is also offered and provides results in two weeks. Anonymous testing is available at select sites. Services are provided via mobile van at several standing locations throughout the community. Please call 925-313-6771 for a schedule of dates and sites for community testing.

## **Partner Counseling And Referral Service (PCRS)**

PCRS is for anyone who is HIV-positive and has partners who may have been exposed to HIV. A specially trained counselor helps clients explore ways to tell their partners (sex and/or needle sharing) about their possible exposure so that their partners can make informed decisions about testing. The counselor provides sensitive and private support, answers any questions and concerns, and explores options with clients to tell their partners about possible exposure. The health department also provides anonymous partner notification services. Call 925-313-6771 for more information or a private appointment.

## **Contra Costa HIV/Aids Consortium, HIV Services Providers Network And HIV Prevention Steering Committee**

If you are interested in participating in our local coalition of individuals and organizations responding to the AIDS epidemic in Contra Costa, please call us at 925-313-6771 and learn more about these efforts.

## **HIV Reporting By Name Is Now The Law In California**

It is important that all persons consenting to an HIV test are clearly and explicitly informed that their name and HIV related data will be confidentially gathered and reported. We recommend that all providers include the following language in the HIV testing consent form.

*"All HIV related information is confidential. I understand that HIV positive test results and related information as allowed by law will be reported by name to my local health department and to the California Department of Health Services. This reporting will enhance efforts to track the epidemic, monitor transmission trends, and allocate funds for education, prevention and care."*

For further assistance on HIV and AIDS reporting call 925-313-6323 or fax to 925-313-6344.

## Public Health Laboratory: 925-370-5775

**For after hours emergencies, call Sheriff's Dispatch at 925-646-2441 and ask for the Health Officer on call.**

The Contra Costa Public Health Laboratory is a California State and Federally certified facility that provides high complexity testing services in the areas of bacteriology, parasitology, mycobacteriology, mycology, immunology, and virology. Microbiological examinations of food and water are also provided in support of Environmental Health Programs. Reference services are an integral part of the laboratory program.

The Public Health Laboratory and its branches are under the direction of the Contra Costa County Health Officer and are regulated by the Laboratory Field Services of the California State Department of Health Services.

### Ordering Laboratory Tests

Laboratory tests may be requested, in writing, by an authorized person, using laboratory test request forms, provided by the laboratory. Oral or written instructions for appropriate specimen collection and specimen mailing containers will be provided upon request. Records of test requisitions are retained for at least 2 years. Patient specimens must be accurately labeled to assure that accurate test results are reported.

### Essential Tests to be Submitted to Public Health Laboratory

Specimens should be submitted to the Public Health Laboratory on patients suspected of having botulism, plague, rabies, typhoid fever, diphtheria, or who have culture positive Isolates of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Salmonella* sps. or positive malaria blood films.

### Botulism

In adults, diagnosis is established by the demonstration of the specific toxin in the patient's serum or stool. In infants, diagnosis is established by identification of *Clostridium botulinum* organisms and/or toxin in the patient's stool specimen. Call 925-370-5775 for specific instructions.

Infant botulism (< 1 year of age) is managed by the California Department of Public Health Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program [www.infantbotulism.org](http://www.infantbotulism.org). The 24/7/365 telephone contact number for obtaining consultation and Baby BIG® for treatment of infant botulism is 510-231-7600.

All other botulism cases are managed by the local health department in consultation with CDPH and the CDC. Consultation for evaluation of a suspected case of botulism may be accessed by calling Communicable Disease at 925-313-6740; for after hours emergencies, call Sheriff's Dispatch at 925-646-2441 and ask for the Health Officer on call.

### Plague

Diagnosis is confirmed by culture of the causative agent, *Yersinia pestis*, from the patient's blood, buboes, spinal fluid or sputum and by a significant rise in antibody titer.

### Rabies Tests

The Public Health Laboratory examines and tests various animals at high risk for rabies after contact with humans, domestic animals, and for surveillance purposes. Arrangements for animal testing are made through Animal Control, 925-335-8300 (Martinez), or 510-374-3966 (Pinole), and/or Communicable Disease Control at 925-313-6740. A fee is charged for rabies testing of animals not considered essential for Public Health rabies control.

### Typhoid Fever

A culture of the organism, *Salmonella typhi*, from which the diagnosis of typhoid fever is established, must be submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for definitive identification. Following treatment, stool and urine specimens must be submitted to Public Health for testing (culture) before clearance of typhoid cases is approved.

### Salmonellosis

A culture on which the diagnosis of salmonellosis (other than typhoid fever) has been established must be submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for definitive identification. Following treatment, stool specimens from individuals in certain occupations (food handler, daycare worker) must be submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for culture and Public Health clearance.

### Diphtheria

Nose, throat and exudate from skin lesions may be submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for diagnosis of diphtheria.

## **Tuberculosis**

Isolation and identification of acid-fast bacilli (AFB), and drug susceptibility testing on *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*M.tb*) are available from the Public Health Laboratory (PHL). Real time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) for *M. tuberculosis* complex using the Cepheid GeneXpert MTB/RIF test is available for rapid detection of tuberculosis on smear positives or high suspect patients. One isolate of *M.tb* from each patient from whom it is cultured must be submitted to the PHL for definitive identification, drug susceptibility testing, and genotyping (DNA fingerprinting). The name, address and date of birth of the person from whom the specimen was obtained, the date the specimen was obtained, and the name, address and telephone number of the health care provider of the patient must be provided (Title 17, California Code of Regulations, Section 1075). Quantiferon TB assay from blood specimen is also available at the PHL. Special antigen-coated vacutainer tubes are required for this test.

## **BioTerrorism**

Whenever a laboratory receives a specimen for the laboratory diagnosis of a suspected human case of the following diseases: ANTHRAX, BOTULISM, BRUCELLOSIS, PLAGUE, SMALLPOX, TULAREMIA and VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC FEVERS, such laboratory shall communicate immediately by telephone with the Contra Costa Public Health Communicable Disease at 925-313-6740; for after hours emergencies, call Sheriff's Dispatch at 925-646-2441 and ask for the Health Officer on call.

## **Malaria**

Blood films for the detection of malaria parasites may be submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. Blood films on which the diagnosis of malaria has been established must be sent to the Public Health Laboratory for confirmation (Title 17, California Code of Regulations, Section 1075).

## **Food Poisoning and Water Pollution**

Food and water specimens suspected of causing illness must be submitted to the Public Health Laboratory through the Communicable Disease Programs at 925-313-6740 or the Environmental Health Program at 925-692-2500.

## **Sexually Transmitted Diseases (General)**

Diagnostic services for syphilis include darkfields, RPR/VDRL and TP-PA confirmatory testing are available. Other diagnostic services include detection of gonorrhea and chlamydia by highly sensitive molecular assays and microscopic detection of genital infections (protozoa, fungi, and *Gardnerella vaginalis*). Providers may wish to refer patients to Public Health STD clinics in Richmond, Pittsburg and Concord (see information on STD Program).

## **Routine Diagnostic Services Available**

The Public Health Laboratory will provide, on request, a complete list of routine diagnostic services available to health care providers and associated fees. There are no charges for required tests, reference or referral services and specimens tested to control an outbreak. All other services have cost-charge rates.

## **New Molecular Diagnostic Tests**

The Public Health Laboratory has recently added many new and unique testing services including molecular diagnostic tests that utilize polymerase chain reaction (PCR) detection methods. This includes, but is not limited to the following organisms: *Influenza A & B with subtyping*, *Norovirus*, *Bordetella pertussis*, *Enterovirus*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Human Immunodeficiency Virus Quantitation*, *Hepatitis C Virus Quantitation*, and *Hepatitis B Virus Quantitation*. Genotyping for HIV and Hepatitis C viruses are also available.

Some bacteria are difficult to identify with commonly used phenotypic identification schemes. 16S ribosomal DNA (rDNA) Sequencing is available at the PHL for these hard to identify bacteria, mycobacteria and fungus.

## **Referral Services**

A variety of referral services are available through the Public Health Laboratory. Unique serology and culture tests performed by the State Microbial Diseases Laboratory (MDL), the State Viral and Rickettsial Diseases Laboratory (VRDL), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) must be accessed through the local Public Health Laboratory. A complete history should be submitted with the specimen to avoid any delays in testing. When specimens are submitted with complete information, turn around times for MDL/VRDL serology testing is usually two weeks and for CDC four weeks. Turn around time for culture specimens will vary.

