

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

August 11, 2005

To: All Health Care Providers in County of Santa Cruz
Subject: Change to Reportable Disease List
From: Fritzi Nelson, Disease Control Manager

The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) has announced that they have added **SARS, West Nile Virus and Lyme disease** to the reportable disease list for physicians. These diseases had already been declared reportable by the Santa Cruz County Health Officer in 2004 and are listed under the “Reporting Form” tab in your *Essential Public Health Reporting Guidelines* (ALPHA) yellow binder. If you do not have a binder, please call 831-454-4275 and one will be provided to you free of charge. Information on testing guidelines and case definitions are also located in the binder under the “Disease Info” tab.

It is important to note that **SARS is provider-reportable but not laboratory reportable**. SARS must be reported **immediately** by telephone to the Disease Control Unit at 831-454-4114. The laboratory reportable disease list and the reportable disease list for providers differs substantially. **The provider is required to report disease even if a laboratory has reported the same case.**

West Nile Virus is reportable within one working day. **Lyme disease** must be reported within seven (7) calendar days. A **Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR)** must be filled out and sent to the Disease Control Unit for all reportable diseases (fax to 831-454-5049). This form contains substantially more information than that which the laboratory submits. If Disease Control only receives a lab report, we must then contact the provider for patient information. The Public Health Department will follow up every CMR. This process prevents outbreaks from occurring. The process works best when providers submit CMRs for reportable diseases.

A Confidential Morbidity Report form is included in your *Essential Reporting Guidelines* binder. The binder is also available online at www.santacruzhealth.org. Click on “Public Health”, then click on ALPHA to access the binder.

If you have any questions about the *Essential Reporting Guidelines*, please call Laurie Lang at 831-454-4275.

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

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