



DISEASE REPORTING GUIDELINES

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY ~ COMMUNICABLE DISEASE (CD) Unit

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Dear Health Care Providers:

The crucial link in improving public health's ability to control the spread of significant diseases in our community is your medical expertise and willingness to report to Santa Cruz County Public Health.

Today, we are seeing increasing numbers of outbreaks—outbreaks of food-borne illness, vaccine-preventable diseases, as well as emerging infections such as multi-drug resistant TB. Together, healthcare professionals and public health form the first line of defense to protect the health and well being of the residents of our county. **Critical to our success is reporting from the medical front lines.** That is why reporting is mandated by California law. Without complete and current information about diseases and conditions in our county, our Communicable Diseases Unit could not coordinate effective public health interventions generate accurate statistics.

To that end, we offer these *Disease Reporting Guidelines* to help physicians, clinics, and labs know what to report, how to report, when to report, and why. We are available 24/7 for consultation (454-4114, 8AM - 5PM, M-F and 471-1170 after hours). We appreciate your comments and suggestions on how to make the reporting process easier and our public health efforts more effective. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Poki Stewart Namkung, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer
County of Santa Cruz



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.