

Notification of Infectious Diseases under the NSW Public Health Act 2010

Document Number IB2013_010

Publication date 25-Feb-2013

Functional Sub group Clinical/ Patient Services - Pathology
Clinical/ Patient Services - Infectious diseases
Population Health - Communicable Diseases

Summary To provide guidance on the requirements for notification of certain medical conditions under the Public Health Act 2010.

Replaces Doc. No. Notification of Infectious Diseases under the NSW Public Health Act 1991 [IB2012_011]

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Applies to Local Health Districts, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Specialty Network Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations, Community Health Centres, Dental Schools and Clinics, Government Medical Officers, Ministry of Health, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals

Audience All staff

Distributed to Public Health System, Divisions of General Practice, Government Medical Officers, NSW Ambulance Service, Ministry of Health, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres

Review date 25-Feb-2018

Policy Manual Health Records & Information, Patient Matters

File No. 09/7464

Status Active

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 2010

PURPOSE

Under the provisions of the Public Health Act 2010 and the Public Health Regulation 2012, doctors, hospital chief executive officers (or general managers), pathology laboratories, directors of child care centres and school principals are required to notify certain medical conditions listed on the Ministry of Health website.

NOTIFICATION MECHANISMS

- Infectious disease notifications should be directed to the local Public Health Unit, and should be initiated as soon as possible within 24 hours of diagnosis.
- In order to protect patient confidentiality, notifications must not be made by facsimile machine except in exceptional circumstances and when confidentiality is ensured.
- Disease notification guidelines for notifiers are available at:
www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/notification.aspx

NOTIFICATION FORMS

Doctors and Hospitals

- Doctors and hospital chief executive officers (or general managers) must notify scheduled medical conditions and provide information specified in the **Doctor/Hospital Notification Form**, either by telephone or in writing. The notification can be found at:
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Documents/doctor-hospital-notification-form.pdf>
- Notifications for AIDS must only include the first 2 letters of the patient's first and last names, and date of birth. Full name and addresses are not to be included.
- The **AIDS Notification Form** can be found at:
 - www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Documents/aids-notification-form.pdf

Laboratories

- Laboratories must notify scheduled medical conditions and provide information specified in the **Laboratory Notification Form**, either by telephone or in writing.
 - The laboratory notification form can be found at:
www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Documents/lab-notification-form.pdf
- Notifications for HIV infection should only include the first 2 letters of the patient's first and last names, and date of birth. Full name and addresses are not to be included.
 - Laboratories carrying out confirmatory testing for HIV must notify infections directly to Communicable Diseases Branch. The **HIV notification form** can be found at:
www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Forms/hiv-notification-form.pdf

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Amendment notes
February 2013	Director Health Protection NSW	Replaces IB2012_11. Advises of Public Health 2010.
May 2012 (IB2012_011)	Chief Health Officer	Rescinds PD2006_014. Advises of updates to the notifiable conditions under Category 3 of Schedule 1 Public Health Act 1991.
February 2006 (PD2006_014)	Director-General	Replaced PD2005_359. Provided updated information on notifiable conditions under the Public Health Act