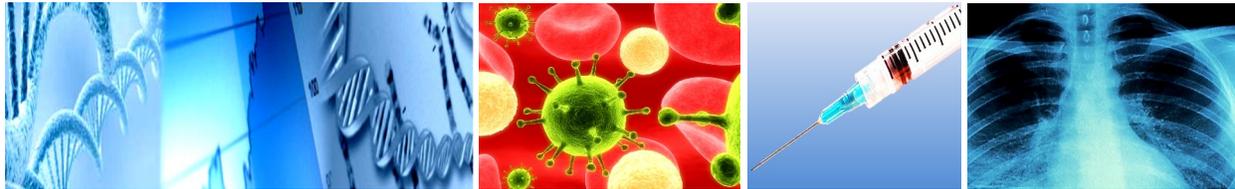




COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SECTION

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Quarterly Newsletter

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http://www.sbcounty.gov/pubhlth/programs_services/communicable_disease_section/communicable_disease_home.htm

Public Health is Contagious — Spread the Word!

The first week of April each year is set aside to increase the awareness of the value of public health and prevention in our lives, our health and our communities' health. Public health encompasses the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through organized community efforts. Well supported public health systems are critical to the County of San Bernardino's health and future. It is necessary to maintain the health victories of the past, such as, keeping vaccine preventable diseases at

bay and protecting us from emerging health threats in the future. The return on investment in public health is shown with immunizations. Every dollar spent on childhood immunizations alone saves more than \$5 in direct costs and approximately \$11 in additional costs to society.¹

Community partners, such as, private providers, labs, and schools are important in forming strong alliances to achieve the goal of a healthy community with the local health department. Increased collaboration between the

Communicable Disease Section staff and our local community partners in the area of reporting is one way to enhance communication.

We hope that this newsletter will provide helpful information and we invite our provider offices and community partners to call us for any assistance that is needed. We have very knowledgeable staff in the areas of epidemiology, immunizations, STD/HIV surveillance, and TB control. Thank you for your continued support and remember "Public Health is Contagious—Spread the Word!"

Communicable Disease Section...Who We Are!

The Communicable Disease Section (CDS) works together with County of San Bernardino residents, health care providers, schools, businesses and other community partners to keep the County healthy and safe from communicable disease.

In recent months, CDS and the STD/HIV Section combined to consolidate and strengthen surveillance activities working to reduce the spread of disease. CDS now consists of the Tuberculosis Control Program, Immunization, Epidemiology, and STD/HIV. Consistent with California law, CDS performs

disease surveillance and implements infection control measures, along with educational activities designed to reduce and manage the incidence of communicable disease.

The Tuberculosis Control Program conducts investigatory activities designed to control the incidence of tuberculosis and provides case management services to all patients with active tuberculosis.

The Immunization Program works with immunization providers in public and private sectors, and schools to educate on new immunization trends and requirements, as well as general

techniques all in an effort to increase vaccine coverage rates in San Bernardino County.

Epidemiology investigates cases and outbreaks to determine the extent of morbidity, risk of transmission and intervenes when appropriate within the community.

CDS relies on our public health partners to report more than 85 communicable diseases as mandated by California law. We also continue to value our alliances with local community groups who represent the diverse population of San Bernardino County.

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¹ Zhou F, Santoli J, Messonnier M.L., Yusuf H.R., Shefer A., Chu S.Y., Rodewald L., & Harpaz R. (2005). Economic evaluation of the 7-vaccine routine childhood immunization schedule in the United States, 2001. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, 159(12).

Why Communicable Disease Reporting is Important

Communicable disease reporting is important in public health surveillance, control and prevention of disease. It is required of providers and other licensed staff according to CA Code of Regulations Title 17 Section 2500. For surveillance to be effective, communicable disease reporting must be done in a timely manner. Prompt reporting gives the public health department time

to interrupt disease transmission, locate and treat exposed contacts, identify and contain outbreaks, and alert the health community. Delay or failure to report communicable diseases may result in increased disease risk to the public.

It is the responsibility of both the provider and the lab to report. This is especially important because not all report-

able diseases listed for medical providers are reportable by the labs.

Completing all fields of the confidential morbidity report (CMR) is also vital to the disease investigation process. Failure to provide necessary patient information may delay disease investigation and control efforts.

Disease Surveillance and Investigation

The Communicable Disease Section is responsible for responding to outbreaks and reports of over 85 reportable communicable diseases and conditions. In 2012, over 14,000 reports of STIs were received by the program, including 200 HIV/AIDS cases. In addition, over 3600 reports of communicable diseases and 45 outbreaks were investigated, and many contact investigations for active pulmonary TB cases were conducted.

When a report of a communicable disease or unusual condition is received, the following activities are implemented:

Investigation: interview patients and/or clinicians to identify risk factors and exposures that may help identify a source of infection, provide guidance on lab testing to confirm a diagnosis, and assist in community prevention measures.

Disease Control: provide recommendations on measures to control and prevent the spread of disease, both in healthcare settings and in the community.

Education: provide information to patients, healthcare providers, and the public about disease transmission and prevention.

The information we collect regarding disease risks and exposures is summarized so that when residents become ill, we can better understand how the County of San Bernardino is affected.

To accomplish these activities, CDS partners with several programs including Environmental Health, Vector Control, Animal Care and Control, Public Health Lab, and Clinic Operations.



Keeping You Up to Date on Tuberculosis



The County of San Bernardino had 57 cases of tuberculosis (TB) in 2012. This is a slight increase from the 53 cases in 2011. State guidelines require healthcare providers to report suspect and diagnosed cases of TB to their local health Jurisdiction within one day of identification.

The County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health facilitates the reporting process by making forms available on our County website to report TB. We offer expert clinical consultation, case management, direct observed therapy (DOT) and

contact tracing. Please call us if you have any questions or need additional information. We can be reached at 800-722-4794 Monday through Friday 8am-5pm. Remember health care providers are essential to TB control!

HIV/AIDS Reporting



HIV/AIDS is reportable to local public health by providers and laboratories within 7 days of diagnosis. Reportable events span the continuum of HIV disease from the first positive HIV test; through the development of opportunistic infections; pregnancy and delivery of a live infant; and death. All HIV testing including positive antibodies, CD4 counts/percent's related to an HIV positive individual, and viral loads (both detectable and non-detectable) are reportable to public health. Our HIV surveillance staff maintains confidentiality of all HIV/AIDS-related public health records under Health and Safety Code 121025.

This surveillance data is the primary source of population-based HIV/AIDS information in the US. De-identified surveillance data is routinely used for surveillance reports, epidemiologic profiles, prevention efforts, and health care and support service grant applications.

The HIV/AIDS Case Report Form (CDPH 8641 05/07) and HIV Testing and Antiretroviral Use History Form (CDPH 8681 08/11) are completed by the provider office with the assistance of local health

department HIV surveillance staff if needed. Case reports and labs to be mailed must be sent via traceable courier service. These reports are to be placed in double envelopes with the inner envelope marked confidential, sealed and addressed to Margie Castaneda and the Department of Public Health. The outer envelope will have no reference to HIV/AIDS and will be mailed to us. Alternatively, case report forms and related lab reports may be faxed. Please call (800) 722-4794 before faxing for additional instructions. Email reporting is prohibited.

Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Reporting

Many physicians mistakenly believe reporting is the responsibility of the lab. Reporting is required of physicians and other licensed staff according to CA Code of Regulations Title 17 Section 2500. Not all reportable diseases are reportable by labs and are often missing important information such as gender, address, pregnancy status and treatment information. Receiving only a lab with a name and a date of birth is a huge problem among the STIs. Of the 1,863 Gonorrhea cases diagnosed in 2012, 254 were missing an

address at the end of 2012. Incomplete CMRs cause the loss of valuable time for public health staff who can only locate the case by calling the provider office and requesting information from the chart.

Antibiotic resistance among Gonorrhea infections is an increasing concern in CA and the rest of the US. Therefore, complete treatment information on the CMR, including site of specimen, allows local public health to focus on untreated individuals and provide feedback to physicians as national treatment guidelines change.

The information on the CMR provides county wide data detailing which infections might be occurring at higher rates in certain subgroups, including race/ethnicity or sexual orientation.

Of 14,121 STIs (Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, PID) diagnosed in 2012, 7,408 (52%) were missing race/ethnicity. This data is used to develop public health interventions, better allocate public health resources and communicate infectious disease concerns to providers.

Vaccine-Preventable Disease News

Timely immunizations help prevent the spread of communicable diseases among children, adolescents and adults. As part of the CDS staff, the Health Education Specialists (HES) and Health Service Assistants (HSA) provide comprehensive immunization services to reduce the incidents of vaccine preventable diseases. We continually work to provide accurate and timely immunization information to healthcare providers, schools and child care centers, and to the general public.

CDS staff work with San Bernardino County immunization providers and the public to provide education on new immunization trends and requirements. As an effort to increase vaccination coverage rates and improve vaccine storage and handling, we determine immunization coverage rates and provide in-services for providers and staff.

We also work closely with schools in San Bernardino County to ensure

that children are meeting the immunization requirements for school entry.



School immunization records are assessed to ensure that schools are enforcing California School Immunization requirements, maintaining all immunization records and submitting all required reports.

**COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Observances

Communicable Disease Section
799 East Rialto Ave
San Bernardino, CA 92415
Phone: 1(800) 722-4794
Fax: (909) 387-6377

Confidential Morbidity Reports (CMRs) can be found on our website and can be faxed to:
TB, Epi, HIV/STD: (909) 387-6377

To report suspect or confirmed cases of TB to the Tuberculosis Control Program, please fill out a TB case/suspect form for your hospitalized or clinic patient and fax to (909) 387-6377. Follow up with a phone call to one of our TB nurses at 1(800) 722-4794.

April 1-7	National Public Health Week http://www.nphw.org
April 20-27	National Infant Immunization Week http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/index.html http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Pages/NIIW-TIM.aspx
April 24	World Meningitis Day http://www.meningitisfoundationofamerica.org/templates/
April 1-30	STD Awareness Month http://www.cdc.gov/features/stdawareness/
May 1-31	Toddler Immunization Month http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Pages/NIIW-TIM.aspx Hepatitis Awareness Month http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HEPAwarenesMonth.htm

Additional Web Resources

County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health
<http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph>

California Department of Public Health

- Division of Communicable Disease Control
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/dcdc>
- Vaccine for Children (VFC)
<http://www.eziz.org>
- School Immunization Requirements
<http://www.shotsforschool.org>
- California Immunization Registry (CAIR)
<http://cairweb.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Disease & Conditions (A - Z Index)
<http://www.cdc.gov/DiseasesConditions>
- Immunization Schedules
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules>
- HIV/AIDS & STDs
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/hiv>

American Public Health Association

<http://www.apha.org>