



VOLUME 10: PUBLIC HEALTH & INFECTION CONTROL	Effective Date: 6/13
CHAPTER 2	Revision Date(s): 2/14
10.2.1: PUBLIC HEALTH DISEASE REPORTING POLICY	Attachments: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

I. POLICY

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) institutions shall report public health diseases to the local health officer (LHO) and to the California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) Public Health Unit (PHU).

CCHCS health care providers at each CDCR institution shall comply with California Health and Safety Code (Health & Saf. Code) Section 120130 and California Code of Regulations (Cal. Code Regs.), Title 17, Sections 2500 et seq. by reporting Title 17 reportable diseases to the LHO for the county in which the patient-inmate is housed at the time of the diagnosis of the reportable disease. All CCHCS health care providers must comply with Health & Saf. Code Section 120130 by following the official state requirements related to reporting diseases, including timeliness requirements and the mechanisms required for reports.

Outbreaks and diseases of public health significance shall be reported to the CCHCS PHU by the mechanism specified by the PHU. The following must be reported to the PHU:

- Outbreaks of any Cal. Code Regs., Title 17, Section 2500, reportable communicable disease;
- Outbreaks or individual cases of diseases of public health significance (e.g., chickenpox or acute hepatitis cases) that require investigation because they pose a risk of infection to inmates or staff or because they may be sentinel events heralding outbreaks;
- Tuberculosis suspect and confirmed cases; and
- Additional diseases or conditions by request of the PHU.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that CDCR inmates receive appropriate access to services for diseases of public health significance.

III. DEFINITIONS

Reportable Disease: A disease or condition that is mandated by law to be reported to the LHO for the jurisdiction in which a patient resides.

Health Care Provider: Pursuant to Cal. Code Regs., Title 17, a health care provider is a physician and surgeon, a podiatrist, a nurse practitioner, a physician assistant, a registered nurse, a nurse midwife, a school nurse, an infection control practitioner, a medical examiner, a coroner, or a dentist.

CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

IV. APPLICABILITY

Health care providers at CDCR institutions must follow the policy. Failure to report diseases as mandated by Cal. Code Regs., Title 17, is a misdemeanor (Health & Saf. Code Section 120295) and is a citable offense under the Medical Board of California Citation and Fine Program (Cal. Code Regs., Title 16, Sections 1364.10 and 1364.11).

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief Executive Officer or designee of each institution is ultimately responsible for the implementation and monitoring of, as well as the adherence to this CCHCS policy. This responsibility is specifically addressed by Cal. Code Regs., Title 17, Section 2500(c), which states that the administrator of each health facility, clinic, or other setting where more than one health care provider may know of a case, a suspected case, or an outbreak of disease within the facility shall establish and be responsible for administrative procedures to assure that reports are made to the LHO.

VI. REFERENCES

- California Health & Safety Code Sections 120130, 120295, and 121361–121375.
- California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 13, Article 6, Sections 1364.10–1364.11.
- California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Sub Chapter 1, Article 1, Sections 2500 and 2641.5–2643.20.
- California Department of Health Services/California Tuberculosis Controllers Association Joint Guidelines, “Guidelines for Coordination of TB Prevention and Control by Local and State Health Departments and California Department of Corrections.”