



Cowlitz County Health Department

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THE EPIPHANY

Cowlitz County Health Department Newsletter

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Note: Action items are in red

Change in Reportable Conditions

Effective February 06, 2011, new revisions in reportable conditions law (WAC 246-101) change the way health care providers and facilities report to health departments.

Animal bites: (Change) Report only animal bites where there is a suspected human exposure to rabies. Risk of rabies can be briefly summarized as follows:

- Small mammal (squirrel, rabbit, mouse) – very low risk
- Cat, dog, ferret (non-hybrid, in US) – low risk
- Raccoon, coyote, hybrid dog/cat – unknown risk
- Bats – high risk

When considering risk, it is also important to consider the animal behavior, circumstances and geographic area of exposure. See the guidelines included for easy to follow algorithm.

Influenza-associated deaths: (Addition) Report laboratory-confirmed influenza associated deaths. This allows us to better understand the risk factors associated with severe influenza.

STEC: (Change) Enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC) and hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) will now be reported as shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC). It is immediately notifiable.

Hepatitides: (Addition) Acute and chronic hepatitis D and acute hepatitis E are now reportable *in addition to* hepatitis A, B and C.

New conditions: Several new conditions have been added that are important to track when they do occur because they are emerging conditions. They are:

- Illnesses due to specific arboviral infections

- *Burkholderia*
- domoic acid poisoning (neurotoxin associated with shellfish poisoning and algal blooms)
- Novel influenza infection (H1N1 is **not** deemed novel)
- SARS
- Smallpox
- Vaccinia transmission (contact transmission of smallpox virus by recently vaccinated person)
- Vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA)
- Varicella-associated death
- Viral hemorrhagic fever

In addition the timelines for reporting these conditions to the health department have changed. The categories are now: immediate, 24 hours, 3 business days, and 30 days. **Immediate reportable conditions require a phone call to the local health department to reach a live person as soon as the condition is suspected. During non-business hours, you can call 360-636-9595 to report the disease.**

The answering service will contact an employee of the health department who is on call. Immediately notifiable conditions are: anthrax, botulism, *Burkholderia*, diphtheria, STEC, invasive *H. influenzae* in a person < 5-years-old, novel influenza, measles, invasive meningococcal disease, plague, polio, human or animal rabies, suspected human exposure to rabies, rubella, SARS, domoic or paralytic shellfish poisoning, smallpox, tularemia, viral hemorrhagic fever, yellow fever, and outbreaks of foodborne or waterborne illness.

Within 24 hours is a new category that allows the provider to wait until daylight, or business hours. A phone call to reach a live person is required. Please be sure to note which diseases are now in this category.

Select Health Indicators by Education and Income, 2007-2009

Indicator	Education		Income		Smoker		Total
	HS or Less	More than HS	< 50K	50K +	No	Yes	
Reports good, very good or excellent health							
Washington State	80.0	90.0	79.0	93.7	88.6	77.6	86.9
Cowlitz County	73.8	86.6	72.6	92.4	86.1	61.2	80.7
Asthma							
Washington State	15.2	14.8	16.5	13.7	14.6	17.0	9.1
Cowlitz County	19.1	17.0	20.6	12.0	16.8	21.7	12.5
Overweight or Obese (BMI ≥ 25)							
Washington State	62.5	61.3	63.65	62.2	62.2	58.8	61.7
Cowlitz County	69.5	67.8	69.31	69.6	69.3	65.4	68.6
Uninsured, 18-64 years							
Washington State	29.5	9.8	29.23	4.7	13.5	28.1	16.0
Cowlitz County	32.8	11.5	32.04	5.9	15.1	39.8	21.1
Sufficient physical activity (150 or more minutes a week)							
Washington State	49.9	55.3	49.32	57.3	54.0	51.4	53.6
Cowlitz County	51.0	53.5	46.57	58.9	52.0	54.5	52.4
Sufficient fruits and vegetables (5 a day)							
Washington State	19.4	28.5	22.8	28.2	27.3	17.0	25.7
Cowlitz County	14.8	26.5	19.8	24.1	22.61	15.8	21.2
Smoker							
Washington State	24.8	11.3	22.16	10.29			14.9
Cowlitz County	30.0	15.4	30.5	12.36			19.4

Data Source: Behavioral Health Risk Factor Surveillance Survey

Reported Cases of Selected Notifiable Diseases, 2010 & 2009 Comparisons

Notifiable Disease	2010	2009
Campylobacteriosis	23	19
Chlamydia trachomatis	319	340
Cryptosporidiosis	5	4
Giardiasis	2	1
Gonorrhea	34	9
Hepatitis B, Acute	5	5
Hepatitis B, Chronic	14	6
Hepatitis C, Chronic	187	225
Herpes Simplex	38	38
HIV/AIDS	5	8
Lead (Child lead)	1	3
Pertussis	25	5
Rabies PEP	11	4
Salmonellosis	5	10
Syphilis	2	2
All Reported Diseases	709	796

DISEASE REPORTING

Reporting during business hours
(M-F 8:30-12:00, 1:00-4:30)

Tel: 360-414-5590

360-414-5599, ext 0 for the receptionist

Fax: 360-425-7531 (confidential fax line available for 3 day or 30 day reportable conditions)

Reporting during non-business hours: 360-636-9595

Review the complete list of notifiable conditions at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/notify/other/providerposter.pdf>

WEBSITE: <http://www.mycowlitz.com/health/>

INFORMATION ON REPORTABLE DISEASES:

http://www.mycowlitz.com/health/assessment/notifiable_conditions_form.htm

OUR TEAM: THE EPI-LADIES

- Dr. Jennifer Vines, Deputy Health Officer • Hilary Gillette-Walch, RN, Clinical Nursing Supervisor
- Monica Monteon, Epidemiologist • LeAnne Gilmore, RN, Communicable Disease Public Health Nurse