

Disease Control/ Epidemiology	TAG 340-1-15	Technical Assistance Guidelines Effective Date: January 19, 2015
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## EPIDEMIOLOGY GUIDE TO SURVEILLANCE AND INVESTIGATION

- I. **TITLE:** Epidemiology Guide to Surveillance and Investigation
- II. **TYPE OF STANDARD:** Reportable disease management, investigation, prevention and control.
- III. **OUTCOME:** Maintain standard disease investigation, control, prevention and reporting across the state regardless of CHD location. Investigate, control, prevent and report disease occurrence.
- IV. **BACKGROUND:** The County Health Department Epidemiology Guide to Disease Surveillance and Investigation, October 2010 was originally written as one document to assist the CHD epidemiology staff with investigation, control and prevention of general categories of reportable disease. This updated web-based collection of documents is more comprehensive and addresses disease investigation, prevention and control in a more standardized approach for each CHD. A reference document has been developed for each reportable disease or condition. Each document includes a section on disease reporting, the disease or condition and its epidemiology, case definition(s), laboratory testing, case investigation, controlling further spread, managing sensitive situations, and important links and references. The documents are posted with the corresponding case definition and case report form documents, if necessary, on the same web page. Each disease will be reviewed every two years for updated guidance documents and existing links or will be updated in the event of a significant change to case definition or control or prevention methods.
- V. **PERSONNEL:** CHD epidemiology staff
- VI. **COMPETENCIES:** Staff must have knowledge and judgment of reportable diseases and disease investigation skills to follow and apply guidelines.
- VII. **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:**
  - A. Enter available information into Merlin upon receipt of initial report.
  - B. Review Guide to Surveillance and Investigation chapter for the specific disease or condition reported and follow as appropriate for each disease  
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/disease-reporting-and-surveillance/surveillance-and-investigation-guidance/index.html>.
  - C. Determine that the information in the initial report is consistent with the criteria established in the case definition.
  - D. Contact provider to confirm diagnosis and obtain further patient information.

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- E. Interview patient
  1. Review disease facts with patient.
  2. Confirm physician diagnosis.
  3. Review modes of transmission.
  4. Discuss incubation period.
  5. Discuss symptoms and types of infection.
  6. Determine underlying conditions.
  7. Ask about exposure to specific risk factors.
  8. Identify other possibly exposed contacts and determine prophylaxis as necessary.
  9. Provide education on agent-specific prevention.
  10. Address patient's and contact's questions or concerns.
- F. Document pertinent clinical symptoms.
- G. Confirm laboratory reports by contacting lab to confirm that lab criteria are met.
- H. Arrange to send specimens to Bureau of Public Health Laboratories if necessary.
- I. Follow-up on special situations.
- J. Enter additional information from interview and investigation into Merlin.

#### VIII. AUTHORITY:

- A. Section 381.0011, Florida Statutes, Duties and powers of the Department of Health,  
[http://leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&URL=0300-0399/0381/Sections/0381.0011.html](http://leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0300-0399/0381/Sections/0381.0011.html) , last accessed 12/14
- B. Section 381.0031, Florida Statutes, Epidemiological research; report of diseases of public health significance to department,  
[http://leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&URL=0300-0399/0381/Sections/0381.0031.html](http://leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0300-0399/0381/Sections/0381.0031.html), last accessed 12/14
- C. Chapter 64D-3, Florida Administrative Code:  
<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=64D-3>, last accessed 12/14

#### IX. SUPPORTIVE DATA/ REFERENCES:

- A. *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*, Heymann. David L, MD, Editor, 19<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2008. American Public Health Association.
- B. *Red Book 2012*, American Academy of Pediatrics.  
<http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/content/current>, last accessed 12/14
- C. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), last accessed 12/14
- D. *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*. The Pink Book: Course Textbook. 12<sup>th</sup> Edition Second Printing (May 2012).  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html>, last accessed 12/14
- E. Merlin. Communicable Disease Reporting Surveillance System. FL Department of Health.

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- X. **HISTORY:** Replaces TAG 340-1-10, effective date March 2007, last review date December 2014.