

Disease Control/ Epidemiology	TAG 340-1-13	Technical Assistance Guidelines Effective Date: February 2013
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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 newly created 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 on the same web page. Each disease section will be reviewed each year for updated guidance documents and existing links or will be updated in the event of a significant change to 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.doh.state.fl.us/Disease\\_ctrl/epi/topics/crforms.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Disease_ctrl/epi/topics/crforms.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.
  - E. Interview patient
    1. Review disease facts with patient
    2. Confirm physician diagnosis

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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 11/12
- 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 11/12
- C. Chapter 64D-3, Florida Administrative Code:  
<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=64D-3>, last accessed 11/12

#### 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 11/12
- C. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), last accessed 11/12
- 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 11/12
- E. Merlin. Communicable Disease Reporting Surveillance System. FL Department of Health.

- X. **HISTORY:** Replaces TAG 340-1-10, effective date March 2007, last review date October 2010.



**Florida Health Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts.

**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
Surgeon General & Secretary

**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** February 12, 2013

**To:** John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS  
State Surgeon General

**Through:** Kim Barnhill, MS, MPH  
Chief of Staff

**Through:** Dennis V. Cookro, MD, MPH *DV Cookro*  
Interim Deputy Secretary for Health and  
Deputy State Health Officer for Children's Medical Services

**Through:** Kevin Sherin, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., F.A.C.P.M. *Kevin Sherin*  
Interim Director, Disease Control and Health Protection

**From:** Sharon Watkins, Ph.D. *SW*  
Chief, Bureau of Epidemiology

**Subject:** Approval of Technical Assistance Guidelines (TAG) 340-1-13, County Health Department Epidemiology Guide to Surveillance and Investigation (GSI)

**Action**

**Required:** Approval and Signature      Due Date: February 28, 2013

We recommend approval of TAG 340-1-13 -- County Health Department Epidemiology Guide to Surveillance and Investigation (GSI) effective February 28, 2013.

*John H. Armstrong*  
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 John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS, FCCP  
 State Surgeon General

*2/18/13*  
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 Date

Approved       Not Approved

SW/km

Enclosures

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