




**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 15, 2012

**TO:** County Health Department Administrators and Directors  
Primary Epidemiology Contacts

**FROM:** Julia Gill, Ph.D., M.P.H.   
Director, Division of Disease Control

**SUBJECT:** Recommendations for Interview and Investigation of Reported Cases of Enteric Infections

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The Bureau of Epidemiology (BOE) has developed recommendations for county health departments (CHDs) regarding how to prioritize the investigation of reported cases of selected infectious enteric diseases. Many CHDs have had to reduce the size of their staffs, including those assigned to reportable disease surveillance and response functions, because of reductions in funding. The capacity to investigate and interview every person who is reported to a CHD with a reportable disease or condition may be reduced as a result. The purpose of these recommendations is to allow CHDs to prioritize cases of enteric diseases for investigation and interview, and thus reduce the time and effort spent on these tasks.

Enteric diseases are the most frequently reported of the non-STD reportable diseases investigated by CHD epidemiology staff. Impact on prevention and further spread is reduced for these diseases when an interview cannot be conducted while the patient is ill. Due to the inherent delay in diagnosis and reporting, many infected cases are no longer symptomatic when the case report is received at the CHD, hence interviewing the case patient will have limited impact on the prevention and further spread of the disease. The attached recommendations will help CHDs determine under which circumstances investigating and interviewing enteric disease cases will have the most public health impact.

Please review the attached recommendations and implement them in your CHD as part of your local protocols. The epidemiology component of the County Performance Snapshot will be adjusted to calculate timely intervention only for cases in Groups 1 and 2 of these recommendations, so that following these recommendations does not cause a reduction in your quality improvement score. These recommendations will also officially be incorporated by reference into the CHD Epidemiology Guide to Surveillance and Investigation, TAG 340-1-10, which is currently being updated.

JG/km  
Attachments