

Disease Control/ Epidemiology	IOP 340-01-17	Technical Assistance Guidelines Effective Date: January 08, 2017
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## COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EPIDEMIOLOGY GUIDE TO SURVEILLANCE AND INVESTIGATION

- I. **TITLE:** County Health Department (CHD) 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 CHD 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 diseases. This web-based collection of documents is more comprehensive and addresses disease investigation, prevention and control in a standardized approach. A reference chapter document has been developed for most reportable diseases and conditions. New chapters will be developed each year to further complete the library and add new and emerging diseases. Each chapter 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 chapters are posted with the corresponding case definition and case report form documents, if necessary, on the same web page. Each disease chapter will be reviewed at least every three years for updated guidance documents and existing links or will be updated in the event of a significant change in 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 Epidemiology Guide to Surveillance and Investigation chapter for the specific disease or condition reported and follow as appropriate for each disease [www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/disease-reporting-and-surveillance/surveillance-and-investigation-guidance/index.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/disease-reporting-and-surveillance/surveillance-and-investigation-guidance/index.html).

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- C. Determine that the information in the initial report is consistent with the criteria established in the case definition.
- D. Contact the provider to confirm diagnosis and obtain further patient information.
- 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. Implement control measures if necessary.
- J. Follow-up on special situations.
- K. 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 12/16.
- 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 12/16.
- C. Florida Administrative Code, Chapter 64D-3:  
[www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=64D-3](http://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=64D-3), last accessed 12/16.

**IX. SUPPORTIVE DATA/REFERENCES:**

- A. *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*, Heymann, David L, MD, Editor, 20<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2015. American Public Health Association.
- B. *Red Book 2015*, American Academy of Pediatrics.  
<http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/content/current>, last accessed 12/16.
- C. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), last accessed 12/16.

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- D. *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*. The Pink Book: Course Textbook. 13<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2015.  
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html, last accessed 12/16.
  - E. Merlin. Communicable Disease Reporting Surveillance System. Florida Department of Health.
- X. **HISTORY:** Replaces IOP 340-01-15, effective January 2015, previously TAG 340-1-10, effective date March 2007.

**MESH** “CHD Guidebook” DCHP BOE surveillance investigation data epidemiology “disease report” reportable protocol guide guidelines case symptoms “case definitions” Merlin condition illness GSI “Chapter 64D-3 FAC” testing timeframe laboratory