

Mission:

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



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

DATE: June 03, 2024

TO: Licensed Health Care Practitioners

SUBJECT: Reportable Diseases and Conditions Investigation and Reporting

In a joint effort to protect the health of the residents of Florida, the Florida Department of Health (Department) reminds all health care practitioners, hospitals, and laboratories of the requirement to notify the Department of diseases or conditions of public health significance under section 381.0031, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 64D-3, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The Department maintains a *Table of Reportable Diseases or Conditions to Be Reported* in [Rule 64D-3.029, F.A.C.](#)

Review or Inspection of Medical Records:

The disclosure of protected health information from patient records for reportable disease investigation is permitted without patient consent to a public health authority authorized to collect such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease (See 45 CFR 164.512(b)(1)(i)). Subsection 381.0031(7), F.S., states that “[h]ealth care practitioners, licensed health care facilities, and laboratories shall allow the department to inspect and obtain copies of medical records and medical-related information, notwithstanding any other law to the contrary.” This same section creates an exception to confidentiality laws and provides security to the practitioner by stating: “[a] health care practitioner...may not be held liable in any manner for damages and is not subject to criminal penalties for providing patient records to the department as authorized by this section.”

Reporting Cases of Reportable Disease:

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) does not change the obligation of health care practitioners, laboratories, and hospitals to report cases of disease listed in Rule 64D-3.029, F.A.C., or the obligation to cooperate with the Department's epidemiology investigations. Section 45 CFR 160.203(c) defers to state law with respect to reporting of disease or injury, child abuse, birth, or death, or for the conduct of public health surveillance, investigation, or intervention.

Tracking reportable diseases helps the Department protect public health. Diseases and conditions should be reported to your county health department. Please visit https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/disease-reporting-and-surveillance/surveillance-and-investigation-guidance/_documents/chd-epi-contacts.pdf to obtain your county health department disease reporting contact information.

The Department looks forward to continued partnership that fosters a rapid response to public health investigations and to the success of protecting, promoting, and improving the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts.

CB/jj
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