

Section 9: Notifiable Disease Reporting: Changes to Chapter 64D-3, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Notifiable disease or condition reporting is a core public health function codified in state law, Florida Statute 381.0031. Periodically, the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) updates Rule 64D-3, *F.A.C.* in order to ensure effective disease reporting. This enables FDOH the ability to collect accurate data about diseases occurring in Florida and to investigate and respond to cases of disease present in communities across the state in order to protect the health of all Floridians. Chapter 64D-3 specifies what diseases or conditions are required to be reported, the information to be included in the report, who is required to report, and the methods and time period for reporting.

During 2007 and 2008, FDOH conducted a rewrite of Chapter 64D-3 *F.A.C.* The updated version of Chapter 64D-3, *F.A.C.*, became **effective November 24, 2008**. Making updates to Chapter 64D-3 and the list of notifiable diseases or conditions is a collaborative process between the FDOH central office, the county health departments, and reporting partners such as hospitals, physicians, and laboratories. In addition, when making revisions, the process includes official public comment periods and often topic-specific workshops. (Chapter 64D-3 previously underwent a significant rewrite that was completed in 2006). For changes that became effective November 24, 2008, the year 2009 will be the first complete reporting year where these changes will be effective and reflected in the data.

There are over 90 different diseases or conditions that FDOH requires for each individual case to be reported in addition to reporting of outbreaks or clusters of **any** type of disease.

Five new diseases or conditions were added during the 2008 revision:

- 1) Amebic encephalitis,
- 2) Arsenic poisoning,
- 3) Carbon monoxide,
- 4) *Staphylococcus aureus* community-associated mortality,
- 5) *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated from a normally sterile site (to be reported **only** by those laboratories participating in FDOH's electronic laboratory reporting process).

One disease was removed from the list of reportable diseases: disease due to *Clostridium perfringens*, epsilon toxin.

Several important items are taken into consideration when determining if a disease or condition should be added to the list of diseases or conditions in Chapter 64D-3. In particular, surveillance takes place if a characteristic of a disease or condition requires rapid public health response due to the potential to cause significant illness or death and potential for spread between people or spread to people (from the environment or animals).

To obtain more information, such as the updated version of Chapter 64D-3, *F.A.C.*, or other important reporting documents and guidelines, please visit http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/topics/surv.htm or contact the Florida Department of Health state offices, or your local county health department.