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# Durham County Communicable Disease Update for Healthcare Providers

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## Issue EXTRA | May 2013 Reporting Communicable Diseases

### Announcements

- The Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) is celebrating 100 years of service in 2013.
- Please visit the new Public Health website at [www.dconc.gov/publichealth](http://www.dconc.gov/publichealth).
- Staff e-mail addresses have changed! Addresses previously using the @durhamcountync.gov format have changed to dconc.gov.
- Communicable Disease (CD) Reporting Forms are now located on our website, under Health Resources and Data. <http://dconc.gov/index.aspx?page=874>
- State CD reporting statute: [10A NCAC 41A .0101](#)

### Important Numbers

Main Number	(919) 560-7600
CD Program	(919) 560-7896
FAX:	(919) 560-7716
Immunization Clinic	(919) 560-7608
Tuberculosis Clinic	(919) 560-7633
Adult Health Clinic	(919) 560-7658

### Why should communicable diseases be reported?

Reporting of cases of infectious diseases and related conditions has been and remains a vital step in controlling and preventing the spread of communicable disease. Timely and complete disease reporting allows public health practitioners to monitor and respond to the changing health status of their community and assist with assurance of appropriate medical therapy (eg, for TB), detection of common-source outbreaks (eg, in food-borne outbreaks), and planning and evaluating prevention and control programs (eg, for vaccine-preventable diseases). Per state law, the Durham County Department of Public Health conducts surveillance, investigation, and reporting of approximately 70 communicable diseases that can potentially threaten the population. These activities ensure that services and outreach events are targeted to the people most in need and that public health and community programs get the resources they need.



### Who reports disease cases and to whom?

Physicians, school administrators and child care operators, medical facilities and operators of restaurants and other food or drink establishments must report cases or suspected cases of reportable diseases to their local health department, which in turn reports this information to the N.C. Division of Public Health. Many health care providers are confused and concerned about their reporting obligations under HIPAA and often refuse to disclose information as a result. There are at least two sections of the HIPAA privacy rule that specifically allow health care providers to make these reports: [Section 164.512\(a\)](#) and [Section 164.512\(b\)](#).

### Which diseases are reportable in North Carolina?

The list of reportable diseases varies slightly from state to state. North Carolina's list of reportable diseases and reporting timeframes is specified in the N.C. Administrative Code rule [10A NCAC 41A .0101](#). Notification times are effective from the time a reportable condition is reasonably suspected to exist and range from immediate to seven days, depending on the disease. Immediate reporting is required for potential bioterrorism-related diseases, such as anthrax and botulism; more severe or highly communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis and acute hepatitis B must be reported within 24 hours of diagnosis; other diseases and conditions, such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Chlamydia, have a seven-day reporting timeframe.

Where?

### .....can I find N.C. communicable disease report info?

You can find CD reporting forms and info on our website!!

<http://dconc.gov/index.aspx?page=874>

Please feel free to contact our CD Program with any questions about reporting a Communicable Disease (919) 560-7896



