

NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS

What is the purpose of notifiable conditions reporting?

The purpose of notifiable conditions reporting is to provide the information necessary for public health officials to protect the public's health by tracking communicable diseases and other conditions and taking appropriate measures to prevent and control their spread.¹

What is a notifiable condition?

A notifiable condition means a disease or condition of public health importance, a case of which, and, for certain diseases, a suspected case of which, must be brought to the attention of the local health officer or the state health officer.²

What is an “immediately notifiable condition”?

An immediately notifiable condition is a notifiable condition of urgent public health importance, a case or suspected case of which must be reported immediately at the time of diagnosis or suspected diagnosis.³

What notifiable conditions must physicians report?

Physicians must notify public health authorities of the following notifiable conditions as follows:⁴

<u>Notifiable Condition</u>	<u>Time Frame for Notification</u>	<u>Notifiable to Whom</u>
Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Animal Bites	Immediately	Local Health Department
Anthrax	Immediately	Local Health Department
Arboviral Disease	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Asthma, occupational	Monthly	State Department of Health

¹ WAC 246-101-005.

² WAC 246-101-010(31).

³ WAC 246-101-010(21).

⁴ WAC 246-101-101, Table HC-1.

<u>Notifiable Condition</u>	<u>Time Frame for Notification</u>	<u>Notifiable to Whom</u>
Birth Defects — Autism Spectrum Disorders	Monthly	State Department of Health
Birth Defects — Cerebral Palsy	Monthly	State Department of Health
Birth Defects — Alcohol-related Birth Defects	Monthly	State Department of Health
Botulism (foodborne, infant, and wound)	Immediately	Local Health Department
Brucellosis (<i>Brucella</i> species)	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
<i>Burkholderia mallei</i> (Glanders) and <i>pseudomallei</i> (Meliodosis)	Immediately	Local Health Department
Campylobacteriosis	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Chancroid	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> infection	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Cholera	Immediately	Local Health Department
Cryptosporidiosis	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Cyclosporiasis	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Diphtheria	Immediately	Local Health Department
Disease of suspected bioterrorism origin	Immediately	Local Health Department
Domoic acid poisoning	Immediately	Local Health Department
<i>E. coli</i> Refer to “Shiga toxin-producing <i>E. coli</i> ”	Immediately	Local Health Department

<u>Notifiable Condition</u>	<u>Time Frame for Notification</u>	<u>Notifiable to Whom</u>
Emerging condition with outbreak potential	Immediately	Local Health Department
Giardiasis	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Gonorrhea	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Granuloma inguinale	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> (invasive disease, children under age 5)	Immediately	Local Health Department
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Hepatitis A (acute infection)	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Hepatitis B (acute infection)	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Hepatitis B surface antigen pregnant women	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Hepatitis B (chronic infection) – Initial diagnosis, and previously unreported prevalent cases	Monthly	Local Health Department
Hepatitis C – (Acute infection)	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Hepatitis C – (Chronic infection)	Monthly	Local Health Department
Hepatitis D – (Acute and chronic infections)	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Hepatitis E – (acute infection)	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Herpes simplex, neonatal and genital (initial infection only)	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department

<u>Notifiable Condition</u>	<u>Time Frame for Notification</u>	<u>Notifiable to Whom</u>
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Influenza, novel or unsubtypeable strain)	Immediately	Local Health Department
Influenza-associated death (lab confirmed)	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Legionellosis	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Leptospirosis	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Listeriosis	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Lyme Disease	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Lymphogranuloma venereum	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Malaria	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Measles (rubeola) – acute disease only	Immediately	Local Health Department
Meningococcal disease (invasive)	Immediately	Local Health Department
Monkeypox	Immediately	Local Health Department
Mumps (acute disease only)	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Outbreaks of suspected foodborne origin	Immediately	Local Health Department
Paralytic shellfish poisoning	Immediately	Local Health Department
Pertussis	Immediately	Local Health Department
Pesticide poisoning (hospitalized, fatal, or cluster)	Immediately	State Department of Health

<u>Notifiable Condition</u>	<u>Time Frame for Notification</u>	<u>Notifiable to Whom</u>
Pesticide poisoning (all other)	Within 3 work days	State Department of Health
Plague	Immediately	Local Health Department
Poliomyelitis	Immediately	Local Health Department
Prion disease	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Psittacosis	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Q Fever	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Rabies (confirmed human or animal)	Immediately	Local Health Department
Relapsing fever (borreliosis)	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Rubella (including congenital rubella syndrome) (acute disease only)	Immediately	Local Health Department
Salmonellosis	within 24 hours	Local Health Department
SARS	Immediately	Local Health Department
Serious adverse reactions to immunizations	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Shiga toxin-producing <i>E. coli</i> infections (enterohemorrhagic <i>E. coli</i> including, but not limited to, <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7)	Immediately	Local Health Department
Shigellosis	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Smallpox	Immediately	Local Health Department
Syphilis	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Tetanus	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department

<u>Notifiable Condition</u>	<u>Time Frame for Notification</u>	<u>Notifiable to Whom</u>
Trichinosis	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Tuberculosis	Immediately	Local Health Department
Tularemia	Immediately	Local Health Department
Vaccinia transmission	Immediately	Local Health Department
Vancomycin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (not to include vancomycin-intermediate)	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Varicella-associated death	Within 3 work days	Local Health Department
Vibriosis	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Viral hemorrhagic fever	Immediately	Local Health Department
Yellow fever	Immediately	Local Health Department
Yersiniosis	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Other rare diseases of public health significance	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department
Unexplained critical illness or death	Within 24 hours	Local Health Department

How must reports of notifiable conditions be made?

Conditions listed as immediately notifiable must be reported by telephone or by secure facsimile copy or secure electronic transmission of a written case report. A party sending information by facsimile or electronic transmission during business hours must confirm immediate receipt by a live person.⁵

Conditions designated as notifiable within 24 hours must be reported to the local health officer or the Department of Health (as specified in the above list) within 24 hours of diagnosis or suspected diagnosis. Reports during normal business hours may be sent by secure electronic transmission, telephone, or secure facsimile copy.⁶

⁵ WAC 246-101-110(1).

⁶ WAC 246-101-110(2).

Conditions listed as notifiable within three work days must be reported by written case report, secure electronic transmission, or secure facsimile copy.⁷

Conditions listed as notifiable on a monthly basis must also be reported by written case report, secure electronic transmission, or secure facsimile copy.⁸

For conditions designated as notifiable to the local health department, a physician must notify the state Department of Health when the local health department is closed or its representatives are unavailable at the time a case or suspected case of an immediately notifiable condition or an outbreak or suspected outbreak of a communicable disease occurs.⁹ The Department of Health has a 24-hour hotline number, (206) 418-5500 or (877) 539-4344 (Toll-free), for reporting notifiable conditions, outbreaks, or suspected outbreaks.

What must a report of a notifiable condition contain?

For each notifiable condition, physicians must provide the following information for each case or suspected case:¹⁰

- Patient name, address, telephone number, date of birth, and sex.
- Diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of disease or condition.
- Pertinent laboratory data, if available.
- Name and address or telephone number of the principal health care provider.
- Name and address or telephone number of the person providing the report.
- Any other information the Department of Health may require on forms it generates.
- Any other information of epidemiological or public health value the local health officer or state health officer may require.¹¹

What else must a physician do to prevent the spread of communicable diseases?

See COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

Are there penalties for failing to file a required report?

⁷ WAC 246-101-110(3).

⁸ WAC 246-101-110(4).

⁹ WAC 246-101-105(2).

¹⁰ WAC 246-101-115(1).

¹¹ WAC 246-101-115(2).

Yes. Failure to file a required report can constitute unprofessional conduct which may result in disciplinary action.¹² See **UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**. Also, if the failure to file a required report is the proximate cause of an actionable injury, it could subject the physician to civil liability.

¹² RCW 18.130.180(11).