



PUBLIC HEALTH

**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

Notifiable Conditions

Washington State Board of Health
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Notifiable Conditions Reporting

Provides information necessary to protect the public's health

- ✓ Treat those who are ill
- ✓ Give preventive therapy to those exposed
- ✓ Halt outbreaks
- ✓ Remove harmful exposures
- ✓ Use data to direct activities and policy



WAC 246-101 Content

- Definition of terms
- Health care provider responsibilities
- Laboratory responsibilities
- Health care facility responsibilities
- Local health department responsibilities
- Department responsibilities
- Responsibilities of others

WAC 246-101 Revisions

Need for changes since last WAC revision in 2000

- ✓ New conditions identified
- ✓ Broader national and international perspective
- ✓ New laboratory methods developed
- ✓ Existing WAC language unclear or incomplete
- ✓ Improved reporting needed

New Notifiable Conditions

- New diseases in Washington (e.g., *Cryptococcus gattii*)
- New diseases in the United States (e.g., West Nile virus infections)
- New diseases globally (e.g., SARS)



Broader Perspective

- National consistency (e.g., pediatric influenza deaths)
- Reporting for international health regulations (e.g., new strain of human influenza)
- Laboratory reporting of vibriosis needed for multi-state and international outbreaks

New Laboratory Methods

- Strain typing tests available to detect outbreaks (e.g., legionellosis)
- Different commercial laboratory testing changes ability to detect outbreaks (e.g., commercial toxin testing instead of culturing for *E. coli* O157:H7)

WAC Language Updating

- Outdated (e.g., reference book)
- Unclear (e.g., ‘immediate reporting’ undefined)
- Incomplete (e.g., no time frame for veterinarians to report)
- Insufficient (e.g., reduce time frame for health care providers to report)

Needs for Improved Reporting

- Additional conditions laboratory reported (e.g., vibriosis)
- Additional tests reported for known conditions (e.g., liver tests for hepatitis A)
- Electronic reporting
- Patient residence information

General Process for WAC Revision

- Submit CR-101 to Board of Health
- Establish advisory panel
- Establish revision criteria with panel
- Develop change proposal
- Submit CR-102
- Notify and consult with stakeholders
- Submit CR-103

2008

2009

2010



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