

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL Policy

Title:	Reporting Notifiable Diseases and Conditions	Number:	IPC-CD-030
Sponsor:	Senior Director, Quality Improvement and Safety	Page:	1 of 3
Approved by:	VP, Health Services, Quality and System Performance	Approval Date:	Jan. 23, 2020
		Effective Date:	Feb. 25, 2020
Applies To:	All Team Members and Physicians including Public Health and Medical Officers of Health		

POLICY STATEMENTS

1. All diseases and conditions listed in [It's the Law: Reporting Notifiable Diseases and Conditions](#) must be reported to NSHA Public Health.
 - 1.1. All unusual disease clusters, disease outbreaks and unusual disease occurrences must be reported immediately.
2. Public Health will contact reporting professionals for follow-up information related to the case file.

NOTE: NSHA Public Health is mandated by the [Health Protection Act](#) to protect the public and prevent, detect, manage and contain health threats. This work is carried out with respect to an individual's privacy; however, there are instances when Public Health requires the disclosure of personal health information of an individual in order to effectively protect the health of the greater public. The sections of the Health Protection Act that require mandatory reporting prevail over the Personal Health Information Act.

3. Medical Laboratory Technologists, Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses (RNs), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), Occupational Health Nurses and/or Infection Prevention and Control Practitioners are responsible for reporting to [NSHA Public Health Offices](#) during regular business hours as required in the reporting guidelines.
 - 3.1. Team members with access to the patient health care record are to document notification of Public Health.

4. The Medical Officer of Health (MOH) on call must be notified after hours, and on weekends and holidays of any disease or condition listed as “Report as soon as Suspected” in [It’s the Law Reporting Notifiable Diseases and Conditions](#)
 - 4.1. Suspected diseases or conditions must be reported even if a lab specimen has not been obtained or is pending. A delay in reporting can impact the spread of the disease to other patients, staff and family members.
5. The lab must immediately notify Infection Prevention and Control of any isolates from inpatients, patients awaiting admission or recently discharged listed in [It’s the Law: Reporting Notifiable Diseases and Conditions](#).
6. The registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or physician must notify Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) immediately of any patients with diseases or conditions listed in [It’s the Law: Reporting Notifiable Diseases and Conditions](#).
 - 6.1. The patient’s name, hospital number, provincial health card number and location must be included to ensure that any required additional precautions and measures are initiated.
7. The physician signing a death certificate must report to Public Health if the patient had a notifiable disease or condition at time of death.

REFERENCES

- Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness. (2005). *A guide to the Health Protection Act and Regulations*. Retrieved from <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/cdpc/documents/Guide-to-the-Health-Protection-Act-and-Regulations.pdf>
- Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness. (2017). *It’s the law: Reporting notifiable diseases and conditions*. Retrieved from https://novascotia.ca/dhw/cdpc/documents/06026_ItsTheLawPoster_En.pdf
- Province of Nova Scotia. (2019). *Health Protection Act*. Chapter 4 of the Acts of 2004. Retrieved from <https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/health%20protection.pdf>

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Policies

[NSHA PH-HP-001 Notifiable Disease and Health Hazard Reporting and Follow-up](#)

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District Health Authority Policies Being Replaced

CBDHA IC-I-02 Reportable Infectious Diseases

CDHA IC 02-001 Reporting Notifiable Diseases and Conditions

AVDHA 120.034 Legally Mandated Notifications (partial)

CBDHA A-1-070 Legally Mandated Notifications (partial)

SSH-AD-110-240 Legally Mandated Reporting (partial)

Version History

Major Revisions (e.g. Standard 4 year review)	Minor Revisions (e.g. spelling correction, wording changes, etc.)
Feb. 25, 2020 New	