



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY  
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY  
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT STAFF SURGEON

SUBJECT: Revised Service Guidelines for Reportable Medical Events

A working group drafted revisions to the guidelines and case definitions for Reportable Medical Events that the Services have used since 1998. The Joint Preventive Medicine Policy Group approved the revisions in May 2009. The revisions will become effective on July 31, 2009. Please notify your respective medical commanders and medical staff, including public health and preventive medicine officers, of the revised guidelines so that they can effect a smooth transition to the use of the new standards.

The consensus list of Reportable Medical Events in the guidelines will be used by the Services in both garrison and deployed settings. The original list was adopted to standardize the reporting and tracking of diseases and other conditions of public health and military importance. Timely reporting is important in paving the way for appropriate interventions to minimize morbidity and mortality and protect the health of the force. Although the Services may choose to track additional conditions, the Services are not authorized to delete conditions from the list.

The revisions to the guidelines were based on recommendations from the Services and review of publications of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health organizations, and International Health Regulations from the World Health Organization. Deleted from the previous list of reportable events are exposures to biological and chemical warfare agents, carbon monoxide poisoning, lead poisoning, non-gonococcal urethritis, and West Nile fever. Added to the new list are norovirus infections, outbreaks of disease, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and anaplasmosis.

The revised guidelines and case definitions can be found on the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC) Web site at <http://www.afhsc.mil/documents.asp>. The following Service points of contact can field questions about the implementation of these guidelines:

Air Force: Major Natalie Johns, AFMSA/SG3PM, DSN 297-4216  
Army: LTC Steven Brewster, USACHPPM, DSN 584-5127  
Navy: CAPT Neil Naito, BUMED-M3C1, (202) 762-3495

Data about Reportable Medical Events will be integrated into the Defense Medical Surveillance System, which is maintained by the AFHSC. AFHSC will report aggregate data for the Department of Defense as a whole, provide data to the Service public health centers, and coordinate with the centers to ensure data comparability and the appropriate and timely exchange of data.

If there are questions concerning coordination issues for revision of these documents, contact LTC Steven Tobler at the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center at (301) 319-3240 or by e-mail at [Steven.Tobler@us.army.mil](mailto:Steven.Tobler@us.army.mil).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald L. Noah".

Donald L. Noah, Col, USAF, BSC  
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
Force Health Protection and Readiness