



Notifying Diseases in Northland

URGENT NOTIFICATION

Phone anytime (day or night) – please do not leave a message on an answerphone

Common diseases:

Acute gastroenteritis/food poisoning¹
Haemophilus influenzae b
Hepatitis A
Legionellosis
Measles
Neisseria meningitidis invasive disease
Outbreak² of any notifiable disease
Toxic shellfish poisoning
Verocytotoxic Escherichia coli

Rare diseases:

Anthrax
Avian Influenza (highly pathogenic)
Botulism
Cholera
Diphtheria
Meningoencephalitis - 1° amoebic
Plague
Poliomyelitis
Rabies
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
Typhoid/paratyphoid fever
Viral haemorrhagic fevers

¹ Please notify urgently if there is a suspected common source, the case is a high risk category (eg food handler, child care worker), or the case is suspected to have chemical or toxic food poisoning eg botulism or toxic shellfish poisoning

² An outbreak is defined as two or more cases linked to a common source

NON-URGENT NOTIFICATION

Leave message on Ext 7887 or Fax 09 430 4498

Common diseases:

Campylobacteriosis
Cryptosporidiosis
Food poisoning
Giardiasis
Hepatitis B
Hepatitis C
Non-seasonal influenza eg
H1N1
Leptospirosis
Malaria
Mumps
Pertussis
Rheumatic fever
Rubella
Salmonellosis
Shigellosis
Tuberculosis (all forms)
Yersiniosis

Rare diseases:

AIDS
Arboviral diseases
Brucellosis
Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease
E. sakazakii invasive
disease
Hydatid disease
Leprosy
Listeriosis
Rickettsial diseases
Tetanus
Yellow fever

Other Diseases:

Cysticercosis
Decompression sickness
Hepatitis (viral)
Invasive pneumococcal
disease (laboratory notifiable
only)
Lead absorption $\geq 10 \mu\text{g/d}$
($0.48 \mu\text{mol/l}$) – non-
occupational
Lead absorption $\geq 15 \mu\text{g/d}$
($0.72 \mu\text{mol/l}$) - occupational
Poisoning arising from
hazardous substances or out
of chemical contamination of
the environment eg pesticide
poisoning
Taeniasis
Trichinosis

Phone 09 430 4101 Ext 7887

Notes on Notifiable Diseases

5 reasons why you should notify:

1. It may allow us to identify the source of infection and stop an outbreak in your area.
2. To prevent the transmission of infection to others.
3. Information will be supplied to your patient about the disease.
4. To determine the incidence of disease in Northland
5. It is required by law (Health Act 1956 and Tuberculosis Act 1948) and is a duty of care defined under Right 4 of the Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers Rights.

Notifying a disease - how it is done:

The easiest (and best) way to notify a disease is to simply phone 09 430 4101 (Ext 7887) and either speak with Mary-Anne (our Infectious Disease Clerk) or leave a message on the answer phone.

If it is a disease which requires “Urgent Notification” (eg meningococcal disease) phone Ext 7887 at any time of the day or night. After hours the answer phone message will give you instructions on how to contact the duty health protection officer or public health nurse. Please do not leave an urgent message on the answerphone.

“Urgent Notifications” are diseases which pose a serious and imminent threat to public health and require a same day public health action. “Non-Urgent Notifications” are diseases which require public health action but investigation can be delayed until the next working day.

What happens with Notifications?

All notifications are followed up either by staff from the Public Health Unit or by staff employed by a District Council. Many notifications are followed up by a face-to-face interview with the patient and this is a time when many patients ask questions about how they caught the disease.

If a food/water borne disease is notified and it seems likely that a particular food premise was the source then the food premise will be visited and inspected.

Local notification data is entered via a secure web-based system onto a national data base which is collated and analysed by Environmental Science and Research Ltd on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

What about the Health Information Privacy Code?

Notifications of diseases under the Health Act 1956 or Tuberculosis Act 1948 are required by law and so are allowed to be disclosed to the local Public Health Unit.

It is a good policy to let your patients know that they have a notifiable disease and that someone from the Public Health Unit or the local District Council will contact them in the near future.

Information about Notifiable Diseases

Please phone Dr Jonathan Jarman or Dr Loek Henneveld (Medical Officers of Health) if you require information about the public health management of these diseases. Their phone numbers are 09 430 4101: Ext 7870 - Jonathan or Ext 7854 – Loek.