



Notifying Diseases in Northland

DISEASES FOR URGENT NOTIFICATION

Phone (09) 4304100 anytime (day or night) and ask to speak to the on-call Medical Officer of Health— please do not leave a message on an answerphone.

Common diseases:

Acute gastroenteritis/food poisoning¹
Haemophilus influenzae B (Hib)
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
Non-seasonal influenza
Plague
Poliomyelitis
Q fever
Rabies and other lyssaviruses
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
Typhoid/paratyphoid fever
Viral haemorrhagic fevers

Note 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

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

DISEASES FOR NON-URGENT NOTIFICATION

Leave message on (09) 4304101 Ext 7887 or Fax 09 430 4498

Common diseases:

Campylobacteriosis
Cryptosporidiosis
Food poisoning
Giardiasis
Hepatitis B
Hepatitis C
Leptospirosis
Mumps
Pertussis
Rheumatic fever
Rubella
Salmonellosis
Shigellosis
Tuberculosis (all forms)
Yersiniosis

Rare diseases:

AIDS
Arboviral diseases
Brucellosis
Cronobacter species
Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease
Cysticercosis
Hepatitis (viral)
Hydatid disease
Leprosy
Listeriosis
Malaria
Rickettsial diseases
Taeniasis
Tetanus
Trichinosis
Yellow fever

Other Diseases:

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

Phone 09 430 4101 Ext 7887

Please turn over for more information on how to notify

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:

Contact the on-call Medical Officer of Health directly for “Urgent Notifications” (eg meningococcal disease) phone 09 4304100 (the DHB switchboard) including after-hours. Please do not leave an urgent message on an 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.

The easiest (and best) way to notify a “non-urgent” disease is to simply phone 09 430 4101 (Ext 7887) and either speak with Mary-Anne Barlow (the Communicable Disease Administrator) or leave a message on the answer phone.

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 practice 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 Loek Henneveld (ext 7854, works Monday & Tuesdays) or Dr Clair Mills (021 461 039, works Tuesday-Fridays) if you require information about the public health management of these diseases.