

Checklist for Review & Approval of Communicable Disease Reporting & Transport Protocol(s)

The following checklist will assist with review and documentation of routine and 24/7 communicable disease reporting and response processes. The checklist includes elements that are suggested for inclusion in your local protocol. The checklist should be submitted in your 3rd. quarter progress report by no later than April 15th, 2022.

<i>Protocols detailing how your agency conducts communicable disease surveillance and processes reports of interest.</i>			
Required Basic Elements	Included in protocol?		
	Yes	No	Comments
1. Does your protocol describe the way disease reports are received by your agency (e.g. confidential fax, phone reports, or mail)?			
a. Does your protocol describe how reports are reviewed? (e.g. reports reviewed centrally or by different units of your agency such as communicable disease, environmental health, family planning, etc.)?			
b. Does the protocol describe specifically who is responsible for evaluating reports and ensuring case investigation and control measures, as described in state rules, are implemented?			
c. If selected conditions are referred to various sections of the agency (e.g. foodborne illness to sanitarians), does your protocol indicate to whom these selected conditions are referred?			
2. If your agency utilizes a team approach on some events, does the protocol indicate who comprises the team and what their general roles are?			
3. Does the protocol describe how quickly reports are reviewed (e.g. day of receipts, within 24 hours, 48 hours, etc.)?			
4. Does it describe how information regarding local cases is stored (paper, electronic records, etc.) and who has access to information?			
5. Does it describe how reported cases/contacts from outside your jurisdiction are referred (e.g. called directly to jurisdiction, given to DPHHS)?			
6. Does your protocol describe who is responsible for completing reporting forms & who submits forms to DPHHS (i.e. MIDIS data entry, expanded case investigation forms, foodborne outbreak form)?			
7. Does the protocol outline a highly active surveillance procedure for use during outbreak/emergency events?			
8. Does your protocol specifically address rabies response issues, including: who is involved in response, issuing PEP recommendations, observation and testing of animals and sharing information with relevant response partners?			
9. Does your protocol identify how to prioritize during case investigation and contact tracing when a surge of cases occurs? This may include considering time-based factors for the disease, household contacts, sensitive settings, and those most at risk for severe illness.			

10. Does your protocol identify partners within your jurisdiction that can assist with case follow-up during surge events?			
11. Does your protocol identify methods to quickly scale up staffing for your department during emergencies? You may be able to cross reference other portions of your emergency operations plan.			
Required Routine Active Surveillance Elements with Key Surveillance Partners (KSPs)			
Required Active Surveillance Elements	<i>Included in protocol?</i>		
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1. Does your protocol detail how your agency conducts active surveillance?			
2. Does it list the key providers/laboratories routinely contacted?			
3. Does it detail the frequency of your active surveillance calls with each contact?			
4. Does it indicate which staff member(s) have been assigned the responsibility of conducting & documenting active surveillance calls?			
5. Standing request for release of Department of Veteran's Affairs medical record data is up to date for local health jurisdictions until the end of 2021. CDEpi will contact you to update this standing request.			<i>Date your jurisdiction submitted the letter:</i>
Protocol detailing your agency's 24/7 availability to receive and evaluate reports of concern.			
Required 24/7 elements:	<i>Included in protocol?</i>		
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1. Does the protocol describe a method to receive and immediately review emergency reported 24 hours a day 7 days a week?			
2. If your system relies on an answering service or dispatcher, have they been provided with a detailed written protocol that includes a list of contact numbers?			
3. Does the protocol describe how local providers, police, EMS, dispatch, etc. are made aware of the emergency number or system?			
4. Does the protocol provide for the periodic local testing of the 24/7 system?			
5. Does the protocol provide for the documentation and evaluation of all tests and actual after-hours calls?			
Protocol detailing your agency's "Epi Team" approach to communicable disease events.			
Required Epi Team Elements:	<i>Included in protocol?</i>		
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1. Does the protocol provide for core and expanded team members?			
2. Does the core team have at least one public health nursing and one environmental health staff members?			
3. Does the protocol define what conditions or events will require notification of the core team members (i.e. suspect foodborne illness, animal bite, etc.)?			
4. Does the protocol define what circumstances that may require expanding the team to include other members associated with your agency?			
5. Does the protocol define how information is shared among team members and within what timeframe?			

Packaging and Transport of Urgent Specimens Requiring Immediate Testing.

Required Sample Transport Protocol Elements:	Included in protocol?		
	Yes	No	Comments
1. NOTIFICATION/CONSULTATION WITH DPHHS: Does your plan outline processes to consult with DPHHS staff regarding the need for IMMEDIATE testing of clinical or environmental samples prior to implementing your transport plan?			
2. ROLE OF LOCAL PARTNERS: Does your plan include contact information for <i>local partners, such as HAZMAT, water operators, local clinical laboratories, law enforcement and others</i> , who may be called upon in the event of a significant public health event requiring immediate collection, transport and testing?			
3. PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL PARTNERS: Has your plan been reviewed and approved by <i>all local partners</i> who may be involved in packaging and/or transport of samples requiring immediate testing?			
4. COLLECTION KITS: Does you plan detail the types and locations of emergency sampling kits to be used by your jurisdiction and is the information current in the Montana Public Health Directory? Note: Kits include the Chemical/Biological Agent Transport (CBAT), Drinking Water Emergency Sampling (DWES), and Category A agent kits.			
5. KIT REPLACEMENT: Does your protocol include details on getting replacement DWES kits or CBAT kits/supplies from MTLNB as needed?			
6. SAMPLE TRANSPORT: Does your protocol provide specific details regarding the different methods used to transport samples requiring immediate testing, including options if DPHHS resources are unavailable (e.g. DPHHS/laboratory courier, local law enforcement, private party, air transport, etc.)?			
NOTE: Please do not include utilizing Montana Highway Patrol as part of your transport plan. This is a state resource, not a local one.			

The above protocols/plans have been reviewed / revised as necessary and are satisfactory at this time.

_____ *Date* _____
 Jurisdiction Health Officer (*Must be signed by the acting health officer*)

_____ *Date* _____
 Board of Health Chairperson (*Must be signed by the acting Chairperson*)