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Document Type: Policy	Code: DHA/HRS/HPSD/HP-10	Version Number: 2
Document Title: Communicable Disease Notification Policy	Issue Date: 12/03/2020	Effective Date: 01/06/2020
Ownership: Preventive Medicine Section, Public Health Protection Department		
Applicability: All Healthcare Facilities licensed under the jurisdiction of Dubai Health Authority		
1. Purpose: 1.1. To assure early detection, timely prevention and control of communicable diseases in the Emirate of Dubai. 1.2. To monitor and investigate the occurrence of communicable diseases in the Emirate of Dubai. 1.3. To manage and issue accurate reports on communicable disease notification. 1.4. To inform the future planning of communicable disease services. 2. Scope: 2.1. Infectious Disease Notification Process for DHA Licensed Health Facilities. 3. Definitions and Abbreviations: Immediate Notifiable Diseases: are those that require notification to the Preventive Medicine Section (PMS) by telephone immediately within 0- 8 hrs of identification (Appendix 1) along with electronic notification to follow, or Report by electronic notification within 24 hrs of identification (Appendix 2). Notifiable Disease: Any disease is required by law to be reported to the concerned government authorities.		

DHA: Dubai Health Authority.

IDNS: Infectious Diseases Notification Services on DHA's online portal "Sheryan".

MOHAP: Ministry of Health and Prevention.

PMS: Preventive Medicine Section.

SALAMA: Electronic medical records used in DHA health facilities.

4. Policy Statement:

- 4.1. All Healthcare facilities in Dubai must notify all suspected or confirmed cases of communicable diseases and deaths caused as a result thereof to the DHA Preventive Medicine Section-Public Health Protection Department.
- 4.2. Rapid identification, effective surveillance, prompt reporting, public health commitment and strengthened cooperation are of primary importance for effective prevention and control of communicable diseases to be instituted in health care facility settings.
- 4.3. The following healthcare professional categories are responsible for notifying the communicable diseases conditions listed in this policy:
 - 4.3.1. Doctors.
 - 4.3.2. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.
 - 4.3.3. Practitioners of medical professions other than doctors and pharmacists.
 - 4.3.4. Laboratory Personnel.
- 4.4. Communicable diseases notifications should be placed as an Infectious Diseases Notification Order via electronic systems (SALAMA, IDNS) and according to the listed communicable diseases conditions. (**Appendix 1 and 2**)

4.5. Diseases listed in (**Appendix 1**), should be reported immediately by calling the 24/7 hotline.

4.6. It is the responsibility of the treating doctor/team to maintain confidentiality of information, provide reassurance, counselling to the patient and escort as necessary.

4.7. Procedures and Responsibilities:

Procedure		Responsibility
4.7.1.	Identify the communicable diseases conditions for notification based on clinical manifestation, epidemiological evidence and laboratory reports.	• Treating doctor • Lab personnel
4.7.2.	Report the communicable diseases to Preventive medicine section-DHA according to the diseases group categories listed in this policy (Appendix 1, 2 and 3).	• Doctor • Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians • Healthcare professionals other than doctors, lab personnel and pharmacists
4.7.3.	Diseases under Appendix 1 should be notified immediately via telephone within 4- 8 hrs. of identification along with electronic notification.	• Treating doctor • Lab personnel
4.7.4.	Diseases under Appendix 2 should be notified immediately via electronic notification within 24hrs of identification.	• Treating doctor
4.7.5.	Diseases under Appendix 3 to be notified via electronic notification within 5 working days from identification.	• Treating doctor
4.7.6.	Contact the Head of preventive medicine section-DHA if necessary or when there is no response on preventive medicine hotlines.	• Treating doctor • Infection control nurse

4.7.7.	Receive, acknowledge and assign electronic communicable diseases notifications.	Electronic System Surveillance officers: • SALAMA • IDNS
4.7.8.	Verify and confirm the notified communicable diseases with the reposting source.	• PMS On-call team (epidemiologist, doctor) • Specific disease coordinator
4.7.9.	Communicate with concerned team at health facility setting for updates on case condition, confirmation, findings and further laboratory testing or measures if needed.	• PMS On-call team (epidemiologist, doctor) • Specific disease coordinator
4.7.10.	Notify Dubai Municipality for foodborne, zoonotic and vector-borne diseases.	• PMS On-call team (epidemiologist, doctor) • Specific disease coordinator
4.7.11.	Notify the DHA disaster office when a communicable disease condition alerted as a suspected or confirmed outbreak.	• Head of PMS
4.7.12.	Notify the preventive medicine department at MOHAP when a communicable disease condition alerted as a suspected or confirmed outbreak	• Head of PMS

5. References

- 5.1. Federal Law no.14 of 2014 Concerning the Communicable Diseases.
- 5.2. Cabinet Decision no. (33) of 2016 Promulgating the Bylaw of the Control of Communicable Diseases.
- 5.3. Ministerial Resolution No. (242) of the year 2020 regarding the amending the list of communicable diseases.
- 5.4. Ministerial Resolution No. (221) and Ministerial Resolution (223) of the year 2020 regarding the amending the list of communicable diseases.
- 5.5. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (2020). National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). [ONLINE] Available at: <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nndss/> [Accessed 06 February 2020].
- 5.6. GOV.UK. 2020. Notifiable diseases and causative organisms: how to report - GOV.UK . [ONLINE] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/notifiable-diseases-and-causative-organisms-how-to-report#registered-medical-practitioners-report-notifiable-diseases>. [Accessed 09 February 2020].

6. Appendices:

Appendix 1: Immediately Reportable Communicable Disease (0-8hrs)

• Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) • Poliomyelitis • Anthrax • Botulism • Cholera • Diphtheria • Food poisoning • Enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli • Influenza, Avian • Measles • Meningitis • Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) • Novel Corona Covid-19 (SARS COV-2)	• Nipah Virus • Plague • Rabies • Rubella (Including Congenital) • Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) • Smallpox • Swine Flu • Typhus Fever • Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (e.g., Crimean-Congo, Ebola, Lassa, and Marburg viruses) • Yellow Fever • Any unusual/emerging disease specified by the concerned department in the ministry
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Appendix 2: Immediately Reportable Communicable Disease (within 24hrs)

• Dengue Fever • Haemophilus influenza invasive disease • Hepatitis A • Hepatitis E • Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/AIDS • Legionellosis	• Leprosy (Hansen Disease) • Malaria • Pertussis • Tetanus (Including Neonatal) • Tuberculosis (Pulmonary and Extra pulmonary)
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Appendix 3: Weekly Reportable Communicable Disease (within 5 Working Days)

• Ascariasis • Amoebiasis • Brucellosis • Chickenpox (Varicella) • Conjunctivitis • Cytomegalovirus • Encephalitis ○ Bacterial ○ Viral • Food borne Illness Specify: ○ Amoebic dysentery ○ Bacillary dysentery • Giardiasis • Infectious mononucleosis • Influenza • Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD) • Listeriosis • Mumps • Relapsing Fever • Scabies	• Scarlet fever • Streptococcal disease, Invasive, group A or B • Streptococcal pneumonia invasive disease (other than meningitis) • Schistosomiasis • Sexually Transmitted Infection (STIs) : ○ Chlamydia ○ Gonorrhea ○ Syphilis (early & late) ○ Chancroid ○ Genital warts ○ Herpes simplex ○ Trichomoniasis • Typhoid /Paratyphoid • Viral Hepatitis (B, C, D) • Trachoma • Other protozoal intestinal diseases • Other zoonotic bacterial diseases not elsewhere classified • Other unspecified infectious diseases
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