

<b>Document Type:</b> Policy	<b>Ref No:</b> HRS/HPSD/CDNP/1/2020	<b>Version Number:</b> 1
<b>Document Title:</b> Communicable Disease Notification Policy	<b>Effective Date:</b> 16/3/2020	<b>Revision Date:</b> 16/3/2023
<b>Ownership:</b> Preventive Medicine Section, Public Health Protection Department		
<b>Applicability:</b> All Healthcare Facilities licensed under the jurisdiction of Dubai Health Authority		
<p><b>1. Purpose:</b></p> <p>1.1. To assure early detection, timely prevention and control of communicable diseases in the Emirate of Dubai.</p> <p>1.2. To monitor and investigate the occurrence of communicable diseases in the Emirate of Dubai.</p> <p>1.3. To manage and issue accurate reports on communicable disease notification.</p> <p>1.4. To inform the future planning of communicable disease services.</p> <p><b>2. Scope:</b></p> <p>2.1. Infectious Disease Notification Process for DHA Licensed Health Facilities.</p> <p><b>3. Definitions and Abbreviations:</b></p> <p><b>Immediate Notifiable Diseases:</b> are those that require notification to the Preventive Medicine Section (PMS) by telephone immediately within 4- 8 hrs of identification (<b>Appendix 1</b>) along with electronic notification to follow, or Report by electronic notification within 24 hrs of identification (<b>Appendix 2</b>).</p>		

**Notifiable Disease:** Any disease is required by law to be reported to the concerned government authorities.

**SALAMA:** Electronic medical records used in DHA health facilities.

**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.

#### 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treating doctor</li> <li>• Lab personnel</li> </ul>
4.7.2.	Report the communicable diseases to Preventive medicine section-DHA according to the diseases group categories listed in this policy ( <b>Appendix 1, 2 and 3</b> ).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctor</li> <li>• Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians</li> <li>• Healthcare professionals other than doctors, lab personnel and pharmacists</li> </ul>
4.7.3.	Diseases under <b>Appendix 1</b> should be notified immediately via telephone within 4- 8 hrs. of identification along with electronic notification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treating doctor</li> <li>• Lab personnel</li> </ul>
4.7.4.	Diseases under <b>Appendix 2</b> should be notified immediately via electronic notification within 24hrs of identification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treating doctor</li> </ul>
4.7.5.	Diseases under <b>Appendix 3</b> to be notified via electronic notification within 5 working days from identification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treating doctor</li> </ul>

4.7.6.	Contact the Head of preventive medicine section-DHA if necessary or when there is no response on preventive medicine hotlines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treating doctor</li> <li>• Infection control nurse</li> </ul>
4.7.7.	Receive, acknowledge and assign electronic communicable diseases notifications.	<p>Electronic System Surveillance officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SALAMA</li> <li>• IDNS</li> </ul>
4.7.8.	Verify and confirm the notified communicable diseases with the reposting source.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PMS On-call team (epidemiologist, doctor)</li> <li>• Specific disease coordinator</li> </ul>
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PMS On-call team (epidemiologist, doctor)</li> <li>• Specific disease coordinator</li> </ul>
4.7.10.	Notify Dubai Municipality for foodborne, zoonotic and vector-borne diseases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PMS On-call team (epidemiologist, doctor)</li> <li>• Specific disease coordinator</li> </ul>
4.7.11.	Notify the DHA disaster office when a communicable disease condition alerted as a suspected or confirmed outbreak.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of PMS</li> </ul>
4.7.12.	Notify the preventive medicine department at MOHAP when a communicable disease condition alerted as a suspected or confirmed outbreak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of PMS</li> </ul>

## 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. (221) and Ministerial Resolution (223) of the year 2020 regarding the amending the list of communicable diseases.
- 5.4. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (2020). National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). [ONLINE] Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nndss/> [Accessed 06 February 2020].
- 5.5. 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)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP)/ Poliomyelitis</li><li>• Anthrax</li><li>• Botulism</li><li>• Cholera</li><li>• Diphtheria</li><li>• Food borne illness:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Food poisoning</li><li>○ Escherichia coli</li></ul></li><li>• Influenza, Avian (human)</li><li>• Measles</li><li>• Meningococcal Meningitis</li><li>• Neonatal Tetanus</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nipah Virus</li><li>• Plague</li><li>• Rabies</li><li>• Rubella (German measles)</li><li>• Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)</li><li>• Smallpox (Variola)</li><li>• Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (e.g., Crimean-Congo, Ebola, Lassa, and Marburg viruses)</li><li>• Yellow Fever</li><li>• Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19)</li><li>• Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)</li></ul>
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**Appendix 2: Immediately Reportable Communicable Disease (within 24hrs)**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dengue Fever</li><li>• Food borne illness:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Hepatitis A</li><li>○ Salmonellosis</li><li>○ Shigellosis</li></ul></li><li>• Haemophilus influenzae invasive disease</li><li>• Hepatitis E</li><li>• Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/AIDS</li><li>• Influenza H1N1</li><li>• Legionellosis</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leprosy</li><li>• Malaria</li><li>• Meningitis:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Bacterial</li><li>○ Viral</li></ul></li><li>• Pertussis</li><li>• Tetanus</li><li>• Tuberculosis (Extra-pulmonary)</li><li>• Tuberculous Meningitis</li><li>• Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)</li></ul>
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**Appendix 3: Weekly Reportable Communicable Disease (within 5 Working Days)**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ascariasis</li> <li>• Brucellosis</li> <li>• Chickenpox</li> <li>• Congenital syphilis</li> <li>• Cytomegalovirus</li> <li>• Encephalitis               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bacterial</li> <li>○ Viral</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Food borne illness Specify:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Amoebic dysentery</li> <li>○ Bacillary dysentery</li> <li>○ Giardiasis</li> <li>○ Typhoid /Paratyphoid</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Gonococcal infection</li> <li>• Hepatitis B</li> <li>• Hepatitis C</li> <li>• Hepatitis D (Delta)</li> <li>• Herpes zoster</li> <li>• Infectious mononucleosis</li> <li>• Influenza</li> <li>• Intestinal worms</li> <li>• Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listeriosis</li> <li>• Mumps</li> <li>• Neonatal conjunctivitis</li> <li>• Pneumonia</li> <li>• Relapsing Fever</li> <li>• Scabies</li> <li>• Scarlet fever</li> <li>• Schistosomiasis</li> <li>• Sexually Transmitted Infection (STIs) :               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chlamydia</li> <li>○ Gonorrhoea</li> <li>○ Syphilis (early &amp; late)</li> <li>○ Chancroid</li> <li>○ Genital warts</li> <li>○ Herpes simplex</li> <li>○ Trichomoniasis</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Trachoma</li> <li>• Typhus Fever</li> <li>• Other protozoal intestinal diseases</li> <li>• Other zoonotic bacterial diseases not elsewhere classified</li> <li>• Other unspecified infectious diseases</li> </ul>
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