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REGARDING CHANGES TO KANSAS ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS K.A.R. 28-2-1 THROUGH 28-1-18

Dear Colleague,

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has updated Kansas Administrative Regulations that regulate the reporting of and isolation and quarantine for infectious or contagious diseases and other health conditions (K.A.R. 28-1-1 through 28-1-18). **The regulations go into effect May 11, 2018 and can be found at**

<http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/regulations.htm>. You are receiving this letter because either you, or your facility, has been identified as a mandatory reporter of infectious or contagious diseases and other health conditions in Kansas.

Mandatory reporters include anyone licensed to practice the healing arts or engaged in a post-graduate training program approved by the state board of healing arts, licensed dentist, licensed professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, administrator of a hospital, licensed adult care home administrator, licensed physician assistant, licensed social worker, teacher or school administrator, and each person who oversees a laboratory.

KDHE has updated these regulations to better align national and state notifiable conditions. Several diseases have been added to the list so that medication that is only available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can be requested and appropriate treatment can begin as soon as possible. Timeframes for reporting have also been shortened to better prevent the spread and dissemination of disease within the state. A list of required patient information, needed so that public health can begin case and contact investigation promptly, is also included.

The following briefly outlines the changes to each regulation. Please refer to the attached list of reportable diseases in Kansas for the full list of reportable conditions.

28-1-1. Definitions

- The entire section of definitions has been updated. Please review carefully.

28-1-2. Reporting requirements for infectious or contagious diseases and conditions

- The following changes were made to the conditions reportable to KDHE within 4 hours by telephone:
 - Diseases that were added to the 4-hour reportable list
 - Unexplained deaths suspected to be due to an unidentified infectious agent
 - Diphtheria
 - Severe acute respiratory syndrome-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV)
 - Tetanus
 - Vaccinia, post-vaccination infection or secondary transmission
 - Viral hemorrhagic fevers
 - Disease that were removed from the 4-hour reportable list

- Meningitis, bacterial
 - Pertussis
 - Rabies, animals
- The regulation changed the reporting of all non-emergency health conditions from 7 days to 24 hours.
- The following changes were made to the conditions reportable to KDHE within 7 days (now reportable within 24 hours):
 - Diseases and Conditions that were added to the 24-hour reportable list
 - Acute flaccid myelitis (suspected cases regardless of lab evidence)
 - Anaplasmosis
 - Babesiosis
 - Blood lead levels (any results)
 - *Candida auris*
 - Carbapenem-resistant bacterial infection or colonization
 - Carbon monoxide poisoning (all suspected cases, regardless of lab results)
 - Coccidioidomycosis
 - Hepatitis B in children <5 years of age (report all positive, negative, and inconclusive lab results)
 - Histoplasmosis
 - Leptospirosis
 - Novel Influenza A virus infection
 - Q Fever – added (acute and chronic)
 - Tularemia – laboratory exposures are now reportable
 - Vancomycin-intermediate and resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VISA and VRSA)
 - Vibriosis or non-cholera *Vibrio* species
 - Diseases that were reportable within 4 hours and are now reportable with 24 hours
 - Pertussis
 - Rabies, animals
 - Other Changes
 - Gonorrhea – antibiotic susceptibility results, if performed are reportable
 - Hepatitis – specified the types of viral hepatitis that are reportable; A, B, C, D, E
 - Streptococcal pneumoniae – all invasive diseases are reportable regardless if they are drug resistant
 - Changes in Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) reporting
 - Report the CD4+ T-lymphocyte cell counts or the CD4+ T-lymphocyte percent of total lymphocytes
 - Report HIV infection in each pregnancy
 - Report viral load of any value
- The following conditions are no longer reportable to KDHE:
 - Amebiasis
- The following new conditions require a bacterial isolate, original clinical specimen, or nucleic acid be sent to the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories
 - *Candida auris*
 - Carbapenem-resistant bacterial infection or colonization
 - *Haemophilus influenzae*, invasive disease
 - Listeriosis
 - Salmonellosis, including typhoid fever
 - Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC)

- Shigellosis
- Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive disease
- Vibriosis (all cholerae and non-cholerae Vibrio species)
- The following personal information must be reported for each patient.
 - First and last names and middle initial
 - Address, including city, state, and zip code
 - Telephone number, including area code
 - Date of birth
 - Sex
 - Race
 - Ethnicity (specify if Hispanic or non-Hispanic)
 - Pregnancy status
 - Date of onset of symptoms
 - Diagnosis
 - Type of diagnostic tests
 - Type of specimen
 - Date of specimen collection
 - Site of specimen collection
 - Diagnostic test results, including reference range, titer if quantitative procedures are performed, and all available results concerning additional characterization of the organism
 - Treatment given
 - Name, address and telephone number of the attending physician
 - Any other necessary information requested by KDHE

28-1-4. Hospital reporting requirements

- This regulation has been updated for clarity. Please review carefully.

28-1-6. Requirements for isolation and quarantine of specific infectious or contagious diseases

- This regulation is amended to adopt a reference document "Requirements for Isolation and Quarantine of Infectious or Contagious Diseases".

28-1-7.

- This regulation is revoked because it contains provisions that are included in KAR 28-1-6 and the reference document adopted in that regulation.

28-1-13. Rabies control

- This regulation is amended to adopt a reference document "Rabies Control Requirements".

28-1-18. Reporting and submission requirements for laboratories

- Requires certain specimens to be submitted to the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories for additional testing and characterization.

For 4-hour reportable diseases, a report must be made by telephone to the KDHE Epidemiology Hotline at 1-877-427-7317. For all other reportable diseases, fax a Kansas Reportable Disease Form and any lab results to your local health department or to KDHE at 877-427-7318. Reportable Disease Forms are available at

http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/disease_reporting.html. Please consult the person at your facility who is responsible for disease reporting to ensure that they are aware of the new regulations.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some services available through your local health department, the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics and the Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention. We coordinate the surveillance of communicable diseases in the state, and we keep track of disease trends through a continuous and systematic review of reported information. We publish an annual summary of selected reportable infectious diseases online (available at http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/annual_summary.htm), weekly case counts by county (available at http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/case_reports_by_county.htm), reports of outbreak investigations (available at <http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/outbreaks.htm>), TB statistical highlights (available at http://www.kdheks.gov/tb/general_overview.html), HIV Epidemiological Profiles (available at http://www.kdheks.gov/sti_hiv/epi_profiles.htm), Kansas HIV Annual Reports (available at http://www.kdheks.gov/sti_hiv/hiv_std_update.html), and Kansas Sexually Transmitted Infections statistics (available at http://www.kdheks.gov/sti_hiv/sti_reports.htm). Additional statistics and other information might be available from our offices by request.

In addition to surveillance, we investigate outbreaks, unusual occurrence of any disease, and individual cases of selected infectious diseases. Our state public health laboratory performs a variety of tests for selected diseases of public health importance. We can assist providers in the implementation of control measures for most communicable diseases.

Our office is staffed with highly-qualified epidemiologists and public health professionals who can provide helpful information about the management of certain diseases of public health relevance. Examples are management of possible rabies exposure and management of patients with vaccine-preventable diseases and contacts of those patients. We also have easy access to the expertise and resources available in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal agencies. We have staff on call each day for disease reporting and technical assistance; for urgent matters, an epidemiologist is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our Epidemiology Hotline telephone number is 877-427-7317.

We thank you for your role in keeping Kansans healthy and safe every day. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact the epidemiologist on call at 877-427-7317.

Sincerely,



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