



# Public Health



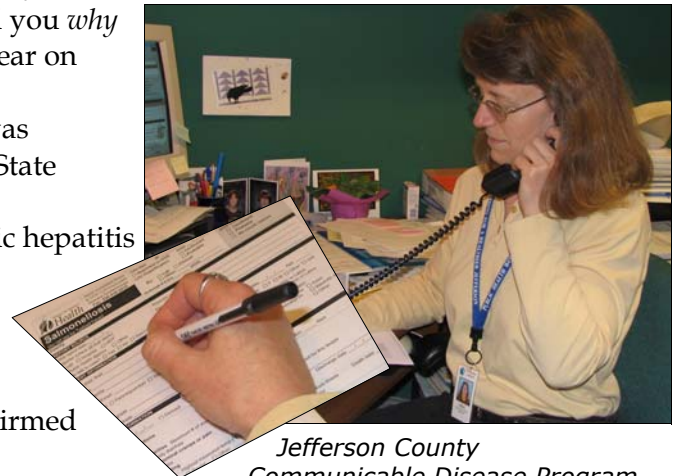
for the Peninsulas

## Why Notify?

You, as physicians and health care providers, are the eyes and ears of Public Health in the community. Your surveillance is critical which is why we want to remind you *why* you report the notifiable conditions and that you are clear on *which* conditions to report.

Most recently, the list of notifiable conditions was amended, effective February 2005, by the Washington State Board of Health. The **changes** are:

- Keep reporting chronic hepatitis B, acute and chronic hepatitis C, herpes simplex (neonatal and initial genital infections), and arboviral disease.
- Keep reporting autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy and alcohol related birth defects.
- Report viral encephalitis if you suspect or have confirmed an arboviral disease.
- **Stop** reporting invasive group A Streptococcus. It's no longer on the list.



Jefferson County Communicable Disease Program Coordinator, Lisa McKenzie, takes a notifiable condition call.

**Continue** to report *all* notifiable conditions such as acute Hepatitis B. Your reports are recorded and provide key information about the health of the community and where we need to direct our resources and education. That's why in future editions of "Public Health for the Peninsulas" we'll include updates in the table below.

**"If in doubt, report it out."**

| Reported Cases of Selected Diseases in Region 2                                 | Kitsap Cases       |                    | Jefferson Cases    |                    | Clallam Cases      |                    | Region Total   |      |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|------|
|   | January–March 2005 | January–March 2004 | January–March 2005 | January–March 2004 | January–March 2005 | January–March 2004 | Jan–March 2005 | 2004 |
| <b>Campylobacteriosis</b>   | 8                  | 4                  | 1                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 9              | 4    |
| <b>Cryptosporidiosis</b>  | 1                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 1              | 0    |
| <b>Chlamydia</b>  | 172                | 170                | 21                 | 5                  | 20                 | 31                 | 213            | 206  |
| <b>Giardiasis</b>   | 4                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 1                  | 4              | 1    |
| <b>Gonorrhea</b>  | 19                 | 19                 | 1                  | 2                  | 4                  | 1                  | 24             | 22   |
| <b>Hepatitis A</b>  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 2                  | 0                  | 2              | 0    |
| <b>Hepatitis C</b>  | 69                 | 50                 | 2                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 71             | 50   |
| <b>Herpes</b>   | 9                  | 12                 | 4                  | 3                  | 0                  | 0                  | 13             | 15   |
| <b>HIV &amp; AIDS</b> (includes only AIDS cases not previously reported as HIV) | 5                  | 4                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 5              | 4    |
| <b>Malaria</b>  | 0                  | 0                  | 1                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 1              | 0    |
| <b>Meningococcal Disease</b>  | 0                  | 1                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0              | 1    |
| <b>Pertussis</b>  | 2                  | 1                  | 1                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 3              | 1    |
| <b>Salmonellosis</b>  | 3                  | 3                  | 1                  | 0                  | 1                  | 0                  | 5              | 3    |
| <b>Syphilis</b>   | 2                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 2              | 0    |
| <b>Tuberculosis</b>   | 4                  | 1                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                  | 4              | 1    |

In the first quarter of 2005 and of 2004 there were no reports of the following notifiable conditions: cyclosporiasis; enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* (non-0157); *E. coli* 0157:H7; mumps; rubella; shigellosis.

*The Region 2 Public Health Emergency & Preparedness Program (PHEPR) endeavors, through this newsletter, to keep you, our health care providers in Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties, informed about Public Health issues that affect you and the patients you serve. If you have questions, comments or need more information about items in this newsletter, please contact the editor, Ruth Westergaard, by phone at (360) 337-5752, email wester@health.co.kitsap.wa.us or at 345 Sixth Street, Suite 300, Bremerton, WA 98337.*

**New!  
Alternatives to DEET!**



Two insect repellents that do *not* contain DEET are *also* recommended by the CDC. The CDC says picaridin offers “long-lasting protection against mosquito bites” and oil of lemon eucalyptus provides protection time “similar to low-concentration DEET products.” For more info go to [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dybid/westnile/](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dybid/westnile/)

- Other personal protection tips include:
- \*Wear long sleeves, pants, socks and shoes and cover your head if you must go in mosquito infested areas.
  - \*Stay indoors during the biting hours of dusk

**West Nile Virus—Control That Habitat**

West Nile virus made it the West Coast in 2004 but Washington has yet to see a documented case of human infection. Reduction of the habitat of *Culex* species of mosquito is critical.

Want more info? Call 1-866-78-VIRUS or log on to [www.doh.wa.gov/WNV](http://www.doh.wa.gov/WNV) or Region 2 Public Health websites.

**Habitat Reduction Tips**

- \*Seal window and door screens and repair tears.
- \*Empty out all outdoor containers such as buckets and cans.
- \*Dump water off tarps and plastic sheeting.
- \*Change water in birdbaths and animal troughs once a week.
- \*Recycle old bottles, buckets and cans and get rid of old tires.
- \*Empty out children’s wading pools when not in use.

**Public Health on the Web**

|  |  |            |
|--|--|------------|
| Clallam County Health & Human Services<br>2274 | <a href="http://www.clallam.net/HealthServices">www.clallam.net/HealthServices</a>           | (360) 417- |
| Jefferson County Health & Human Services       | <a href="http://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org">www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org</a> | (360) 385- |

**Called your RDO lately?** Remember hearing about Public Health 24/7? Over the past few months nurses from Public Health have come to your office to talk to you about the Regional Duty Officer (RDO) and how the RDO is available to you when you need to report or consult regarding Public Health issues.

The RDO pager was activated September 2004. Since then a Region 2 (Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap) senior Public Health staff member has been carrying the pager 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Each Monday the Duty Officer submits a written report of any calls received during his/her duty tenure and then transfers the pager to the next person in line for duty. On Fridays the staff discuss via conference calls what’s been happening during the week and what to be on the lookout for over the weekend.

**Regional Duty Officer**

**After hours**  
Call the  
Regional Duty Officer  
Pager or 911

**Public Health 24/7**

RDOs have received calls about: sewage spills, animal bites, possible rabies, infectious disease and notifiable conditions.

Call your RDO after hours at the number in your binder. For more details about the RDO look in the Public Health binder in your office or call Ruth at (360) 337-5752 or Ellen at (360) 337-5254.

Region 2 Public Health  
Kitsap County Health District  
345 Sixth Street, Suite 300  
Bremerton, WA 98337

**Region 2 Exercises**

Region 2 public health, emergency management, first responders and hospitals conducted a full-scale exercise in March to test the region’s ability to respond to a biological hazardous event. This exercise focused on pandemic flu. Volunteers with the Medical Reserve Corps in Kitsap practiced running a mass prophylaxis distribution center.

