



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CITY OF CHICAGO

August 31, 2015

Dear Health Care Provider,

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), STI Surveillance Program within the STI/HIV Services Bureau is responsible for collecting all reports of sexually transmitted infections from laboratories and health care providers. The Illinois Administrative Code, Title 77, part 693 mandates that all laboratories and health care providers within the City of Chicago report each case of Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia to the local health authority (CDPH). In an effort to improve timeliness of reporting and minimize reporting burden, we are reaching out to all providers to remind them of reporting requirements and provide an update on recent changes in operation with the STI surveillance program.

IDPH Administrative Code Section 690.200 (Reporting) stipulates that ALL Chicago health care providers (including hospital emergency providers) are mandated to report STIs to the CDPH. Provider reports can be submitted online to CDPH using the Illinois National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS) system. Language was added to Section 690.200 requiring laboratories to submit data electronically to I-NEDSS by January 1, 2016. Prior to establishing electronic reporting, laboratories shall report via browser-based data entry into I-NEDSS. To register for electronic submission of STI provider reports or laboratory results using I-NEDSS, please log into <http://portalhome.dph.illinois.gov/> and request a portal account. Paper reports may be submitted after January 1, 2016, however this is strongly discouraged as this will result in a delay in reporting.

Once reports are received, the STI Surveillance program is responsible for ensuring that complete and accurate data are processed in a timely fashion to report to the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as conduct routine prevention activities and linkage to care. The program works closely with providers to obtain missing information, confirm and verify adequate STD treatment, and assign cases to field staff to assist with linkage to care if treatment has not been received. As a provider, you can greatly assist the reporting process by submitting accurate and timely morbidity reports to the STI unit, to ensure that adequate tracking and identification of disease prevalence in high morbidity communities is minimized.

Moving forward, any member of the STI Surveillance program may call you to request additional or verify existing information on STI cases you have diagnosed/reported. Below is a listing of all staff authorized to conduct STI surveillance activities and their contact information, please keep this information for reference:

- **Antonio Andres**, Communicable Disease Control Investigator, 312/747-0693
- **Rhonda Hawkins**, Communicable Disease Control Investigator, 312/747-0684

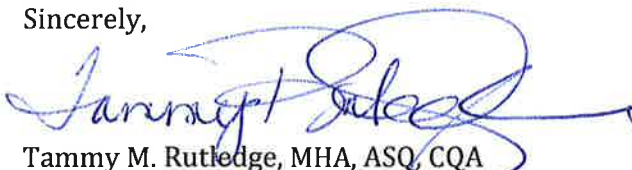
- **Maria Molina**, Communicable Disease Control Investigator, 312/747-0394
- **Darletta Smith**, Communicable Disease Control Investigator, 312/747-0378
- **Bertha Spearman**, Communicable Disease Control Investigator, 312/747-0367
- **Debby Rijos**, Communicable Disease Control Investigator, 312/747-0681
- **Maria Vega**, Communicable Disease Control Investigator, 312/747-0372
- **Gabrielle Henley**, Supervisor, Communicable Disease Control Investigators, 312/747-0697

As the unit is making calls to you to clarify information received, please make sure that all staff in your practice responsible for submitting STI reports are familiar with these names. In addition, Provider Site visits will begin soon and you will receive a call from one of the team members to schedule a visit. The purpose of the site visits is to strengthen collaboration and coordination to ensure quality reporting practices as well as provide public health updates such as the recent meningitis outbreak, new STI treatment guidelines, etc. Please help ensure that all staff responsible for reporting or providing information also participate in the site visit.

The STI/HIV Services Bureau is committed to strengthening communication with care providers. We are encouraging all providers to sign up for the Chicago Health Alert Network (HAN) at www.chicagohan.org to receive important public health updates and alerts. The HAN has two levels of communication: 1) the capacity to publically send emails and post information on emerging issues, and 2) the capacity to access a HIPAA-protected site where confidential/secure discussions and messaging can take place. CDPH currently uses the HAN to share information that can help inform practices and patient care. Most recently, the HAN has disseminated information describing the Meningococcal Meningitis outbreak in Chicago, and a newsletter bulletin for medical providers who may encounter at-risk patients in their clinical practice. We have a STD information page (www.chicagohan.org/STD) where you can learn more about the increase of congenital syphilis cases and the recently released STI treatment guidelines. The STI surveillance program would like to extend the HAN platform to STI providers to allow for a HIPAA-protected mechanism to communicate about missing information on morbidity reports and decrease the faxing of information that causes lag time in processing cases. The Chicago Health Alert Network (HAN) is a **FREE** platform. Please click [here](#) to go on the HAN and click on "learn more" about becoming a HAN member and use my name as your reference; it takes only minutes to register.

Attached, are several forms and updates that are important for your use if you do not have access to submit information electronically. The Morbidity form is the most current form that should be utilized when submitting cases as well as the CDPH Lab reporting form. Please do not change the format on these forms when submitting information. If you should have any questions, comments or concerns regarding these updates or any activities conducted by the STI surveillance program, I can be reached at (312) 747-9661 or via email at tammy.rutledge@cityofchicago.org.

Sincerely,



Tammy M. Rutledge, MHA, ASQ, CQA
Chicago Department of Public Health – STI/HIV Services Bureau
Director, STI Surveillance Unit

Attachments: Morbidity Report Form, CDPH Lab Reporting Form, IDPH Memo, Communicable Disease Rule Changes