

Vermont Adopting Name-Based Reporting for HIV

In 2007 Act 73 was passed which requires, effective April 1, 2008, that HIV positive test results be reported using an individual's name, not a unique identifier (as is the current practice). Act 73 also requires that individuals previously reported using a unique identifier now be reported by name. To do so, providers will be asked to either submit a new case report form including the individual's name, or work with an HIV/AIDS Surveillance Coordinator to compare existing logs with the department's HIV database to match cases already on file. Providers can contact the department as listed below for information and questions.

What is Name-Based Reporting?

- Currently, in name-based reporting of AIDS cases, patient names are forwarded to the Health Department by health care providers when AIDS is diagnosed.
- Name-based reporting for HIV will be similar to name-based reporting for AIDS.
- With the current system for AIDS diagnoses, patient names are kept secure and confidential at the Health Department. No patient names are forwarded to the federal government. Instead, the Health Department generates an alphanumeric code to accompany data forwarded to federal health agencies.

Strict Confidentiality Rules

Individual AIDS and HIV data records are not shared with any other programs. This will not change with name-based HIV case reporting.

Benefits of Making this Change

- Under the current surveillance system, it is difficult to evaluate the accuracy of Vermont's HIV reporting.
- Name-based reporting is expected to improve Vermont's ability to quantify and report the number of HIV positive individuals accurately and without duplication, while continuing to assure confidentiality.
- Improved data will better enable the Health Department to describe the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Vermont, and guide prevention and care services for Vermonters.
- Adopting the name-based standard will help ensure full federal funding for HIV prevention and services programs.

For additional information on HIV/AIDS please call the VDH HIV/AIDS/STD & Hepatitis C Program at (802)863-7245 or 1(800)244-7639 (within VT), or visit our website at http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/aids/aids_index.aspx

The *Infectious Disease Bulletin* can be viewed at:

<http://healthvermont.gov/pubs/IDB/index.aspx>

For questions & comments, please contact Mary Spayne at (802)863-7240

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Chart: Selected Reportable Diseases February - 2008

