



Unusual or Suspect Disease Occurrences or Conditions

-- Reportable to the Health Department --

1. Large number of patients with **similar symptoms** of disease;
2. Large number of patients with **unexplained symptoms** of disease or death;
3. **Higher than expected rate of illness** or death with a common disease and/or failure to respond to traditional therapy;
4. Single case of disease caused by an **uncommon or rare agent** (*i.e. smallpox, viral hemorrhagic fever, anthrax, botulism, pneumonic or bubonic plague, west nile, and most recently "SARS"*);
5. **Unusual patient distribution** (*i.e. all age groups with unexplained rash vs. four or five year old children*);
6. **Unusual disease presentation** (*especially respiratory*);
7. Disease **out of natural season** (*influenza epidemic in July*);
8. **Unusual age grouping** of those who are ill;
9. **Simultaneous clusters** of illness that are typically **not contagious**;
10. Death or disease **detected in plant/animal life** that can **not** be explained or attributed to a natural or expected cause.

What the Health Department may also need to know during for an active investigation:

1. What does the individual think made him/her ill, and why does he/she think this;
2. Date and time of onset of illness, food and water consumed in the last 3 –5 days, and the source of home and work drinking water and ice;
3. The symptoms of illness in the order of strongest to the weakest;



4. Description of body fluids expelled (*watery, bloody, etc...*);
5. Attended any social or athletic events, traveled, camping, used bathing beaches, pools, saunas, jacuzzis ...
6. Pets or small children in the household, and are they well? Any other family, friends or co-workers ill?
7. Detect unusual odors or tastes (*metallic, bitter, or burning or numbing sensations in mouth*);
8. Exposed to ill or dead non-domestic or wild animals?
9. Locations does he/she commonly shops, visits or socializes;
10. Description of normal daily routine prior to this event.