

SEVERE *STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS* INFECTIONS REPORTABLE

Effective February 13, 2008, **severe *Staphylococcus aureus* infections, resulting in death or admission to an intensive care unit of a person without history of hospitalization, surgery, dialysis, or residency in a long-term care facility in the past year, and without an indwelling catheter or percutaneous medical device at the time of culture, are reportable in California.**

- Who needs to report?** Under Title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR), §2500, “it shall be the duty of every health care provider, knowing of or in attendance on a case or suspected case of any of the diseases or conditions [on the reportable diseases list], to report to the local health officer for the jurisdiction where the patient resides...”. A health care provider includes any of the following:

physician	surgeon	veterinarian	podiatrist	nurse practitioner
physician assistant	registered nurse	nurse midwife	school nurse	medical examiner
coroner	dentist	infection control practitioner		
- How to report:** Severe *Staphylococcus aureus* infections (as defined above) are reportable immediately to Orange County Public Health by phone (714-834-8180) or fax (714-834-8196). Please fax a completed Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) (available on-line at www.ochealthinfo.com/docs/public/epi/forms/diseases.pdf) and copy of the laboratory report(s) from positive *S.aureus* culture(s) and the antimicrobial susceptibilities, if available. Please indicate on the CMR in the Remarks section at the very bottom what antibiotic(s) the patient was on at the time of diagnosis and the date(s) started. A specific case report form should be available in the near future.
- For information about MRSA,** see www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/mrsa/index.htm. A list of resources for MRSA is also available in the 10/31/07 edition of *CD Connection*, available at www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/cd_news/index.htm.
- For the most up-to-date reportable diseases list, see:** www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/report-diseases.htm.

OTHER DISEASE NEWS

- Influenza:** Influenza season is well underway. To receive our *Eye on Influenza* newsletter, email epi@ochca.com.
- Measles:** An ongoing measles outbreak involving San Diego County is a reminder to consider measles in patients with febrile rash illness and assure that patients, their families, and your staff members are fully vaccinated. For more information, see www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/measles/index.htm.
- Typhus:** Six cases of endemic flea-borne typhus have been reported in Orange County thus far in 2008. Prior to 2006, no reports of typhus were received since 1993. For more information on typhus, see www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/typhus/index.htm.

Public Health Preparedness News

- Radiation Event Medical Management,** Guidance on Diagnosis & Treatment for Health Care Providers: a new website from the US Department of Health & Human Services is available at <http://remm.nlm.gov/>.
- Health & Emergency Preparedness Planning Council (HEPPC):** For information on joining local planning activities and/or to receive the HEPPC newsletter, email events@ochca.com.