

Section 5: Outbreak Management

5.1 Notification of Communicable Diseases

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An effective notification system is one of the most important components in the surveillance of communicable diseases. The Central Notification Office (CENO) of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) has been set up since 1 June 2004 in order to centralize all infectious disease notifications and monitoring in Hong Kong reported from both public and private health care sectors. Therefore, it is important that the CHP be notified as early as possible so that epidemiological investigation and control measures can be instituted promptly (1).

1 Notification System

1.1 Statutory notifiable diseases

Under Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 141), medical practitioners are required by law to report suspected or confirmed infectious diseases (1) listed in the First Schedule to the Ordinance by Form 1 (Tuberculosis Notification) and Form 2 (Notification of Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis). The latest updated list of notifiable diseases can be found at <https://ceno.chp.gov.hk/disease.jsp#stat>.

1.2 Other communicable diseases of public health concern

Though not specified in the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance, medical practitioners are encouraged to report suspected or confirmed cases of certain other communicable diseases of public health concern as listed at <https://ceno.chp.gov.hk/disease.jsp#stat> to CENO for arrangement of community

investigations and control as appropriate by CHP. Reporting should be made using the form 'Report to Department of Health on Poisoning or Communicable Diseases' (1).

1.3 Suspected institutional outbreaks

Any suspected institutional outbreaks of communicable diseases can be reported to CENO for arrangement of investigation and control as appropriate (1). Some common examples are listed at <https://ceno.chp.gov.hk/disease.jsp#stat>.

Home manager of Residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) may refer to the code of practice available at

http://www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_pubsvc/page_elderly/sub_residentia/id_licensing/

1.4 Notification mechanisms

1.4.1. Notification forms

The notification forms are available from CENO on-line at www.chp.gov.hk/ceno or doctors can contact CENO via phone 24772772 for arrangement.

Form 1 can be accessed at <http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/hpf-dh1a-en-2004052100.pdf>

Form 2 can be accessed at <http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/hpf-form2-en-20050801.pdf>

Report form of other communicable diseases of public health concern can be accessed at <http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/hpf-form3-en-2004052100.pdf>

1.4.2. Electronic notification

(A) Notifiable Diseases and Outbreak Reporting System (NDORS)

Registered medical practitioners working at Hospital Authority are required to report notifiable diseases and communicable diseases through the Clinical Management System (CMS) (2).

For the details of the operation of NDORS, please visit <http://it-userdoc.home/cms/>

(B) Central Notification Online web

Other registered medical practitioners can choose to report through the web-based notification system available in the CENO On-line website at

<http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>.

2 Anonymous Reporting of HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS voluntary reporting system has been in place since 1984. Both medical practitioner and laboratories providing confirmatory HIV tests are encouraged to report to the Department of Health by the HIV/AIDS report form (DH2293) available at <http://www.info.gov.hk/aids/english/surveillance/form.pdf>. This is an anonymous reporting system without the necessity to enter personal identification information of patients, and all data collected is treated with strict confidentiality (3). Medical practitioners are also encouraged to update the status of the previously reported cases when appropriate using the same form.

References

- 1 Central Notification Office (CENO) of Centre for Health Protection (CHP), Department of Health. Notification forms and contact details. [online] 2006 [cited 2006 Oct 22]. Available from: URL: <http://www.chp.gov.hk/notificationcf1d.html?lang=en&pid=13&id=33>
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