



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UNIT

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

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Communicable Disease:	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> infections
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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNOUNCES STATE IS REQUIRING MANDATORY REPORTING OF SEVERE CASES OF COMMUNITY-ACQUIRED STAPH INFECTIONS

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will now require that severe cases of community-acquired staph infections, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and methicillin-sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus*, in a previously healthy person, resulting in death or admission to an ICU, are now reportable to your local public health department. For the purposes of this disease, a “previously healthy person” is defined as:

“someone who has not been hospitalized or had surgery, dialysis, or residency in a long-term care facility in the past year, and did not have an indwelling catheter or percutaneous medical device at the time of culture”.

The goal of making severe staph infections reportable is to determine the incidence of the infections and identify who is at the greatest risk. This will allow for a better understanding of the clinical impact of severe staph infections in order to target prevention efforts.

Previously healthy persons who develop Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS) due to a staph infection do not fall under these guidelines and should be reported as a case of TSS, **not** *Staphylococcus aureus*. Due to the rarity of TSS, CDPH will continue to track it separately.

Additional information about MRSA, including information for parents, schools, athletic departments and health care providers is available at www.cdph.ca.gov.

Report cases that meet the above definition on the Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) form. See attached form. Fax this form to 831-454-5049

Please call the County of Santa Cruz Communicable Disease Unit at 454-4114, if you have any questions about these reporting guidelines.