



March 17, 2008

Dear Colleague,

The Vermont Department of Health is proposing a number of changes to its Communicable Disease Regulations. These changes are largely in response to the passage of Act 73, which requires, among other things, that effective April 1, 2008, persons with a positive HIV test now be reported by name, not by unique identifier. In order to comply with Act 73, the following changes have been made to the Regulations:

- Removes health care facilities, health maintenance organizations, hospital administrators, managed care organizations, and Town Health Officials from the list of those individuals and organizations that are required to report communicable diseases. As a result, only health care providers, laboratory directors, nurse practitioners, nurses, physician assistants, physicians, and school health officials will still be required to report. This change applies to all reportable communicable diseases, not just to HIV infection.
- Requires that HIV infection be reported by name, not by a unique identifier.

In addition, the following changes unrelated to HIV are also being proposed:

- Add the requirement to report individuals with influenza due to a novel strain of Influenza A.
- Add the requirement to report positive HBV DNA test results.
- Delete the requirement to report positive anti-HBc test results.

For more details on the proposed changes, please visit <http://www.healthvermont.gov/>, and then click on "for public comment."

Two public hearings have been scheduled to allow individuals to provide comments and questions:

- Monday, April 7th from 1 - 3 PM. This hearing will be held in room 3B at the Department's offices at 108 Cherry Street in Burlington.
- Wednesday, April 9th from 2 - 4:30 PM. This hearing will be in the ANR 3rd Floor Conference Room at the Department's Springfield District Office, 100 Mineral Street in Springfield.

If you are unable to make one of these hearings, but have comments or questions, you may submit these to Rob Lunn by phone (802) 863-7245, email (rlunn@vdh.state.vt.us) or by postal mail to 108 Cherry Street, Burlington, VT 05402. Comments and questions may also be submitted via our website. **Please note that the deadline for public comment is Wednesday, April 23rd.**

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact one of us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cort Lohff, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist

Rob Lunn, MPA
Director, HIV/AIDS/STD & Hepatitis C