

**Cooperative Public Health Service (CHPS)
Communicable Disease Surveillance and Reporting Policy:**

The member towns of the Cooperative Public Health Service (CHPS) affirm their commitment to complying with the requirements for local board of health communicable disease monitoring as laid out in MGL Chapter 111, Sections 3, 6, 109, 110, 111 and 112, and Chapter 111D, Section 6 and implemented by regulation under the Department of Public Health (Chapter 105, Code of Massachusetts Regulation).

Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN) monitoring

Access to the reports and cases in your town is limited by DPH to only those persons with proper training and qualifications. The Regional Public Health Nurse will be the primary Communicable Disease responder with assistance and back up coverage from the Regional Health Agent or other staff designated by the BOH as needed.

CPHS policy will be to check MAVEN on a frequent basis and respond to reports immediately or as quickly as possible. When there is a report of a highly contagious disease or one that has serious and immediate public health implications, both the Regional Public Health Nurse and the Regional Health Agent will receive immediate notifications by cell phone, text message, and email. When this occurs (rarely) the staff are also typically contacted by the DPH Epidemiologists by phone and work with them to rapidly contain the situation.

Additional (non-MAVEN) Communicable Disease Monitoring:

In addition to responsibilities to monitor and respond to communicable disease notices generated within the MAVEN system, CPHS staff will be respond to any state requests for information or action related to other communicable disease. CPHS staff will serve as each town's Arbovirus Coordinator, responsible for receiving and disseminating reports of mosquito-borne illness and any recommended restrictions on outside activities. An example of this is working with the Division of Tuberculosis Prevention and Control to meet the requirement that the local board of health implement isolation and provide skin-test screening of at-risk contacts and directly observed therapy to infected residents requiring clinical services in order to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis in the community.

Communication with Boards of Health:

Each Board of Health member will receive information from the district on communicable disease reports for the town, unless otherwise designated by the BOH. CPHS staff will send an email to the locally-designated contacts when there is a report of any one of the reportable communicable diseases requiring investigation and reporting in a resident of your town. The email will only specify that a case of XXXX disease has been reported by MAVEN and that we are either following up by starting an investigation and filling out the Case Report Form, and if any further action is needed at this time. No personal information will be included in the emails to BOH Members, so the emails do not need to be treated as confidential. Boards will include the email report of the disease(s) in their minutes at the next BOH meeting.

CPHS staff will regularly report trends to the CPHS oversight committee and will annually provide a non-confidential communicable disease summary to each member town identifying the type and number of cases occurring in each community. This report will be discussed in a Board of Health Meeting.

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