REPORTING OF DESIGNATED DISEASES

Standard of Practice S-004
Quality Assurance Committee
Approved by Council: November 16, 1996
Amended: November 30, 2002, September 28, 2012, February 27, 2019, September 18, 2026 (came into effect November 19, 2026)

Note to readers: In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the legislation that affects chiropractic practice, the legislation governs.

INTENT

Members of CCO are primary contact health care practitioners who act as portals of entry for patients into the health care system. As such, patients may present to members with suspected signs and symptoms of reportable diseases of which the diagnosis and treatment are outside of the chiropractic scope of practice.

The intent of this standard of practice is to advise members of the requirement to report suspected specified diseases in accordance with the *Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990* (*HPPA*) when they form the opinion that a patient has or may have a disease of public health significance.

OBJECTIVES

This standard of practice is consistent with the purpose of the *HPPA*, section 2, which provides:

> "The purpose of this Act is to provide for the organization and delivery of public health programs and services, the prevention of the spread of disease, and the promotion and protection of the health of the people of Ontario."

DEFINITION OF REPORTABLE DISEASES

Diseases that must be reported by members are listed in *Ontario Regulation 135/18* under the *HPPA*, as outlined in Appendix A of this standard of practice.

DESCRIPTION OF STANDARD

- The *HPPA* requires members to notify the local medical officer of health as soon as possible of any reportable diseases defined in the regulations.

- Members are required to maintain confidentiality of all information concerning a person in respect of whom a report is being made with the exception of complying with the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 (RHPA)*.

- Members are protected from liability for making a report in good faith.

- It is an offence punishable by fine for members to fail to comply with their obligation to report reportable diseases.

Legislative Context

The governing legislation is the *HPPA*. Specific relevant provisions are outlined below.

Duty to Report Disease

The duty to report suspected diseases of public health concern to the medical officer of health is outlined in section 25 of the *HPPA*, which provides:

> (1) A physician or a practitioner as defined in subsection (2) who, while providing professional services to a person who is not a patient in or an out-patient of a hospital, forms the opinion that the person has or may have a disease of public health significance shall, as soon as possible after forming the opinion, report thereon to the medical officer of health of the health unit in which the professional services are provided.
>
> (2) In subsection (1),
> "practitioner" means,
> (a) a member of the College of Chiropractors of Ontario,
> (b) a member of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario,
> (c) a member of the College of Nurses of Ontario,
> (d) a member of the Ontario College of Pharmacists,
> (e) a member of the College of Optometrists of Ontario,
> (f) a member of the College of Naturopaths of Ontario,
> (g) a prescribed person.

Members of all Ontario regulated health professions under the *RHPA* are required to report diseases of public health concern to the medical officer of health, as described in the *HPPA*. Public health units in Ontario can be found at the following link: https://www.ontario.ca/page/public-health-unit-locations.

Members may see patients with signs and symptoms of a specified disease and are required to perform a consultation and examination/assessment consistent with CCO standards of practice, policies and guidelines. A member has a duty to report a suspected specified disease to the medical officer of health as soon as possible when they form an opinion that the person has or may have a suspected disease in the course of providing professional services to that patient.

A member must document in the patient health record their opinion that a patient has or may have a specified disease and the reporting of the suspected specified disease to a local medical officer of health.

According to the Regulation 569: Report, under the *HPPA*, a Reportable Disease Report must contain the following information about the person:

- name and address in full,
- date of birth in full,
- sex, and
- date of onset of symptoms.

A member is also required to provide any additional information regarding the reportable disease that the medical officer of health considers necessary and any additional information required in accordance the Regulation 569 https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900569.

The duty to report reportable diseases, includes providing identifying information and as such does not require the patient to first provide consent to disclose his or her personal health information.

Confidentiality

The duty to report diseases includes the duty to report identifying information (e.g., the patient's name), notwithstanding the duty of confidentiality owed to the patient. Section 39, subsection 1 of the *HPPA* provides, in part:

> "No person shall disclose to any other person the name of or any other information that will or is likely to identify a person in respect of whom an application, order, certificate or report is made in respect of a communicable disease, a reportable disease, a virulent disease or a reportable event following the administration of an immunizing agent."

Subsection 1 does not apply,

> (0.a) where the disclosure is authorized under this Act or the *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004*;
> (a) in respect of an application by a medical officer of health to the Ontario Court of Justice that is heard in public at the request of the person who is the subject of the application;
> (b) where the disclosure is made with the consent of the person in respect of whom the application, order, certificate or report is made;
> (c) where the disclosure is made for the purposes of public health administration;
> (d) in connection with the administration of or a proceeding under this Act, the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, a health profession Act as defined in subsection 1 (1) of that Act, the *Public Hospitals Act*, the *Health Insurance Act*, the *Canada Health Act* or the *Criminal Code* (Canada), or regulations made thereunder; or
> (e) to prevent the reporting of information under section 72 of the *Child and Family Services Act* in respect of a child who is or may be in need of protection.

Protection from Liability for Reports

Members are afforded protection for liability arising from reporting diseases in good faith. Subsection 95 (4) of the *HPPA* provides:

> "No action or other proceeding shall be instituted against a person for making a report in good faith in respect of a communicable disease or a reportable disease in accordance with Part IV."

Offence - Failing to Report

It is an offence to fail to report diseases in accordance with *HPPA*. Subsection 100 (2) of the HPPA provides:

> "Any person who contravenes a requirement of Part IV to make a report in respect of a reportable disease, a communicable disease or a reportable event following the administration of an immunizing agent is guilty of an offence."

The penalty for failing to report is outlined in subsection 101 of the *HPPA*, which provides:

> "Every person who is guilty of an offence under this Act is liable on conviction to a fine of not more than $5,000 for every day or part of a day on which the offence occurs or continues."

Please Note:

If copies of the Act or Regulations are required, they may be obtained from the Ontario Government Bookstore, located at:

Publications Ontario
ServiceOntario Centre, College Park Building
777 Bay Street, Market Level
Toronto, ON M6G 2C8
Telephone: (416) 326-5300 or 1-800-668-9938
Fax: (416) 326-5317
https://www.publications.gov.on.ca/

APPENDIX A (AS OF JULY 17, 2026)

Ontario Regulation 135/18: Designation of Diseases (the most updated version of this regulation is available at https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/180135.

1. For the purposes of the Act, a disease set out in Column 1 of the Table is designated as a disease of public health significance and,
(a) a communicable disease, if it is identified as such in Column 2 of the Table; and
(b) a virulent disease, if it is identified as such in Column 3 of the Table.

TABLE
DESIGNATED DISEASES

Item	Diseases of public health significance	Whether the disease is a communicable disease	Whether the disease is a virulent disease
1	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	Yes	No
2	Acute Flaccid Paralysis	No	No
3	Amebiasis	Yes	No
3.1	Anaplasmosis	No	No
4	Anthrax	Yes	No
4.1	Babesiosis	No	No
5	Blastomycosis	Yes	No
6	Botulism	Yes	No
7	Brucellosis	Yes	No
8	Campylobacter enteritis	Yes	No
8.1	Candida auris infection	Yes	No
9	Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) infection or colonization	Yes	No
10	Chancroid	Yes	No
11	Chickenpox (Varicella)	Yes	No
12	Chlamydia trachomatis infections	Yes	No
13	Cholera	Yes	Yes
14	Clostridium difficile infection (CDI) outbreaks in public hospitals	Yes	No
14.1	Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)	Yes	No
15	Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, all types	Yes	No
16	Cryptosporidiosis	Yes	No
17	Cyclosporiasis	Yes	No
18	Diphtheria	Yes	Yes
18.1	Diseases caused by a novel coronavirus, including Severe Acute Respiratory	Yes	No

	Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)		
19	Echinococcus multilocularis infection	Yes	No
20	Encephalitis, primary, viral	Yes	No
21	Encephalitis, post-infectious, vaccine-related, subacute sclerosing panencephalitis, unspecified	No	No
22	Food poisoning, all causes	Yes	No
23	Gastroenteritis, outbreaks in institutions and public hospitals	Yes	No
24	Giardiasis, except asymptomatic cases	Yes	No
25	Gonorrhoea	Yes	Yes
26	Group A Streptococcal disease, invasive	Yes	No
27	Group B Streptococcal disease, neonatal	No	No
28	Haemophilus influenzae disease, all types, invasive	Yes	No
29	Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome	Yes	No
30	Hemorrhagic fevers, including: Ebola virus disease, Marburg virus disease, Lassa fever, and other viral causes	Yes	Yes
31	Hepatitis A, viral	Yes	No
32	Hepatitis B, viral	Yes	No
33	Hepatitis C, viral	Yes	No
34	Influenza	Yes	No
35	Legionellosis	Yes	No
36	Leprosy	Yes	Yes
37	Listeriosis	Yes	No
38	Lyme Disease	No	No
39	Measles	Yes	No
40	Meningitis, acute, including: bacterial, viral and other	Yes	No
41	Meningococcal disease, invasive	Yes	No
42	Mumps	Yes	No
43	Ophthalmia neonatorum	No	No
44	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning	Yes	No
45	Paratyphoid Fever	Yes	No
46	Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Yes	No
47	Plague	Yes	Yes
48	Pneumococcal disease, invasive	Yes	No
49	Poliomyelitis, acute	Yes	No
49.1	Powassan virus	No	No
50	Psittacosis/Ornithosis	Yes	No
51	Q Fever	Yes	No
52	Rabies	Yes	No

53	Respiratory infection outbreaks in institutions and public hospitals	Yes	No
54	Rubella	Yes	No
55	Rubella, congenital syndrome	Yes	No
56	Salmonellosis	Yes	No
57	Revoked		
58	Shigellosis	Yes	No
59	Smallpox	Yes	Yes
60	Syphilis	Yes	Yes
61	Tetanus	Yes	No
62	Trichinosis	Yes	No
63	Tuberculosis	Yes	Yes
64	Tularemia	Yes	No
65	Typhoid Fever	Yes	No
66	Verotoxin-producing E. coli infection, including Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (HUS)	Yes	No
67	West Nile Virus Illness	No	No
68	Yersiniosis	Yes	No