



# Notifying Cases of Infectious Diseases in Victoria

## Your Requirement to Notify

Infectious diseases still occur frequently throughout the world, so constant vigilance is required to prevent the reappearance of diseases thought to have been conquered. Changes in lifestyle have also led to the emergence of new threats to public health from infection. Health authorities depend on medical practitioners and laboratories for information on the incidence of infectious diseases. Notification is vital in efforts to prevent or control the spread of infection.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases are included in Schedule 3 of the *Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001* and are divided into four groups on the basis of the method of notification and the information required. With the exception of HIV/AIDS, these groups are all included on this form (see reverse side). The Health (Infectious Diseases) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 came into effect on January 30 2004. The amendment regulations made Smallpox, Tularaemia and SARS group A notifiable conditions (Schedule 3) and *Mycobacterium ulcerans*, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) group B notifiable conditions (Schedule 3).

**Group A** Diseases require immediate notification to the Department of Human Services by telephone or fax upon initial diagnosis (presumptive or confirmed), followed by written notification within five days. These diseases are bolded on the form and are marked with the **Ⓣ** symbol.

**Group B** Diseases require written notification only, within five days of diagnosis.

**Group C** Diseases include the sexually transmitted infections (indicated on the form as STIs) and should be notified using the same form. To preclude identification of the patient, only the first two letters of the family and given name of the patient are required.

**Group D** Diseases include **HIV** (Human Immunodeficiency-virus) and **AIDS** (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) and written notification is required within five days of initial diagnosis. A **separate form** is used for this purpose due to the need to have national uniformity in collection of data. Copies of this form are forwarded to the diagnosing medical practitioner with the laboratory confirmation of HIV infection.

The Department provides pre-printed Reply Paid envelopes (no stamps required) and STD toll free telephone and facsimile numbers to make notifying as simple as possible. Copies of the form, information on diseases and outbreaks, media releases, disease data, privacy information and other publications are all available at the Department of Human Services Internet site "<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd>".

## Privacy Legislation

Commonwealth and State Privacy Legislation does not negate the responsibility to notify the specified diseases nor to provide the information requested on this form. Doctors have a responsibility to inform their patients that their information is being provided to the Department of Human Services. The Department is committed to protecting the confidentiality of the information it receives and is bound by strict policies. Further information about privacy and notifiable diseases is available from the Communicable Diseases Section.

## Further Information

All notifications and related inquiries should be directed to:

**Communicable Diseases Section**  
**Victorian Government Department of Human Services**  
**Reply Paid 65937, Melbourne VIC 8060**  
(No postage stamp required)

**Telephone 1300 651160 Facsimile 1300 651170**  
(1300 numbers are charged at local call cost)

**After hours contact the Duty Medical Officer**  
**via pager service 132222 and quote pager number 46870**

**Please PRINT clearly and retain a copy of the notification for your records.**  
**Thank you.**