

Date: February 22, 2008

Severe *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA/MSSA) Infections Reportable

The State of California now requires reporting of severe cases of community-associated *Staphylococcus aureus*, including methicillin-resistant and methicillin-sensitive *S. aureus* (MRSA/MSSA), to local health departments. Mandated reporting will lead to improved prevention and control strategies by identifying those at greatest risk.

Severe community-associated *S. aureus* infections are infections in previously healthy persons resulting in death or admission to a hospital intensive care unit. Previously healthy persons are those without history of hospitalization, surgery, dialysis, or residency in a long-term care facility within the past year, and without an indwelling catheter or percutaneous medical device at the time of culture.

Reports should be faxed via Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) to the Community Epidemiology Branch at 619-515-6644 within 24 hours of recognition. Please include a copy of the laboratory report confirming positive *S. aureus* culture(s), antimicrobial susceptibility results, and a hospital discharge summary, if available.

For more information about community-associated MRSA:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/ar/CAMRSA_ExpMtgStrategies.pdf

For general information about MRSA for patients and health care providers:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/MRSA.aspx>

Thank you for your continued participation.

Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN)
County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency
Community Epidemiology Branch