



San Mateo County Health Department

Dear Health Care Provider,

The health of the residents of San Mateo County depends on collaboration between individual practitioners like yourself and the staff of the Health Department. By working together, we can identify disease outbreaks early and prevent their spread, whether it be STD's, meningitis, food-borne illness, or other trends adversely affecting our community's health. Healthcare providers are also on the front line to identify child or elder abuse and other situations that are a threat to the well-being of San Mateo County residents.

The reporting guidelines and forms in this manual consolidate information on what to report, as well as when, how, and why. Based on your reports of communicable diseases, we identify case contacts and follow up with them to provide post-exposure prophylaxis and medical referrals as necessary. In some cases our staff can help you with patient management, as in providing Directly Observed Therapy to patients with active tuberculosis. We also gather epidemiological data on frequency of various infections and other conditions and report them to the state and the CDC to aid in planning health policies and programs. Most importantly, we use these data to develop health policies locally.

Information on non-communicable conditions such as child and elder abuse, domestic violence, pesticide poisonings, lapses of consciousness, and vaccine reactions is also contained in these guidelines to aid you in reporting and making referrals.

This manual includes some treatment guidelines that are current at the time of publication. In addition, up-to-date information can be found at our website, www.smhealth.org/PHreporting, and also at the state and CDC websites and via your usual consultation networks. If you have any questions or suggestions about these reporting guidelines, please call our Disease Control and Prevention staff at 650-573-2346.

In addition, the Health Department is available to consult with health care providers at 650-573-2346 during the work day, and by calling County Communications at 650-363-4981 to reach the Health Officer on call at all other times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Morrow MD MPH". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Morrow, MD, MPH

Health Officer, San Mateo County
