

## **News Release**

### **For Immediate Release**

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## **Reporting Diseases to Protect Our Communities**

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) is one of about 3,000 health departments in the US that gather and use data on disease cases to protect their local communities. This is called disease surveillance.

SWNPHD reports to state and federal health agencies through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). Through NNDSS, public health officials collect and uses disease data to keep people healthy and defend America from health threats.

### **Reportable Diseases and Conditions**

- Each state or territory sets local laws for which diseases and conditions must be reported.
- Healthcare professionals, laboratories, hospitals, and other providers are required to report to public health departments when a person is diagnosed with a disease or condition on the state list.
- The public health department collects information about the person and how they became ill, then reports that information to the state health department.
- This information is used to locate the source of an outbreak and prevent its spread.
- The list of diseases and conditions can change every year.

### **Notifiable Diseases and Conditions**

- The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and the CDC identify the notifiable diseases and conditions.
- States voluntarily inform the CDC when a person meets certain criteria to be considered a case.
- Case records are anonymous and do not contain personally identifiable information.
- CDC uses the data to monitor, measure, and alert individual communities or the nation to outbreaks and other public health threats.
- This list contains about 120 diseases and conditions and is updated every year.

Healthcare providers or their staff who have questions about reportable or notifiable diseases can contact the public health nurses at Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department for assistance.

A chart showing what diseases are reportable in Nebraska and how soon they must be reported to public health is available at [swhealth.ne.gov](http://swhealth.ne.gov). Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves

Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow counties. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram or view the website at [www.swhealth.ne.gov](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov) which contains many resources and additional information helpful to prevent disease, promote and protect health. Call (308) 345-4223; one number three locations, McCook, Imperial, and Ogallala.

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