

(Effective until January 1, 2023)

WAC 246-101-505 Duties of the local health officer or the local health department. (1) Local health officers or the local health department shall:

(a) Review and determine appropriate action for:

(i) Each reported case or suspected case of a notifiable condition;

(ii) Any disease or condition considered a threat to public health; and

(iii) Each reported outbreak or suspected outbreak of disease, requesting assistance from the department in carrying out investigations when necessary.

(b) Establish a system at the local health department for maintaining confidentiality of written records and written and telephoned notifiable conditions case reports;

(c) Notify health care providers, laboratories, and health care facilities within the jurisdiction of the health department of requirements in this chapter;

(d) Notify the department of cases of any condition notifiable to the local health department (except animal bites) upon completion of the case investigation;

(e) Distribute appropriate notification forms to persons responsible for reporting;

(f) Notify the principal health care provider, if possible, prior to initiating a case investigation by the local health department;

(g) Carry out the HIV partner notification requirements of WAC 246-100-072;

(h) Allow laboratories to contact the health care provider ordering the diagnostic test before initiating patient contact if requested and the delay is unlikely to jeopardize public health;

(i) Conduct investigations and institute control measures in accordance with chapter 246-100 WAC.

(2) The local health department may adopt alternate arrangements for meeting the reporting requirements under this chapter through cooperative agreement between the local health department and any health care provider, laboratory or health care facility;

(3) Each local health officer has the authority to:

(a) Carry out additional steps determined to be necessary to verify a diagnosis reported by a health care provider;

(b) Require any person suspected of having a notifiable condition to submit to examinations required to determine the presence of the condition;

(c) Investigate any case or suspected case of a reportable disease or condition or other illness, communicable or otherwise, if deemed necessary;

(d) Require the notification of additional conditions of public health importance occurring within the jurisdiction of the local health officer.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 11-02-065, § 246-101-505, filed 1/4/11, effective 2/4/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.24.130 and 70.24.380. WSR 05-11-110, § 246-101-505, filed 5/18/05, effective 6/18/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050 (2)(d), 70.05.050 and 70.05.060. WSR 03-06-003, § 246-101-505, filed 2/19/03, effective 2/19/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 00-23-120, § 246-101-505, filed 11/22/00, effective 12/23/00.]

(Effective January 1, 2023)

WAC 246-101-505 Duties—Local health officer or the local health jurisdiction. (1) A local health officer or local health jurisdiction shall:

- (a) Review and determine appropriate action for:
 - (i) Each case of a notifiable condition submitted to the local health jurisdiction;
 - (ii) Any condition considered a threat to public health; and
 - (iii) Each outbreak or suspected outbreak of disease submitted to the local health jurisdiction, and request assistance from the department in carrying out any of these investigations when necessary.
 - (b) Establish a system at the local health jurisdiction for maintaining confidentiality of records under WAC 246-101-515;
 - (c) Notify health care providers, laboratories, and health care facilities within the local health jurisdiction of requirements in this chapter;
 - (d) Notify the department of cases of conditions notifiable to the local health jurisdiction under this chapter;
 - (e) Notify the principal health care provider named in the case report or laboratory report, if possible, prior to initiating a case investigation;
 - (f) Allow laboratories to contact the health care provider ordering the diagnostic test before initiating patient contact if requested and the delay is unlikely to jeopardize public health; and
 - (g) Conduct investigations and institute infection control measures in accordance with chapter 246-100 WAC.
- (2) The local health jurisdiction may:
- (a) Adopt alternate arrangements for meeting the requirements under this chapter through cooperative agreement between the local health jurisdiction and any health care provider, laboratory, or health care facility. The alternative must provide the same level of public health protection as the reporting requirement for which an alternative is sought;
 - (b) Receive health information, demographic information, and infectious or noninfectious condition information in addition to that required under this chapter from health care providers, health care facilities, laboratories, the department of agriculture, and the department of labor and industries when the entity submitting the information determines that the additional information will aid the public health authority in protecting and improving the public's health through prevention and control of infectious and noninfectious conditions.
- (3) When the local health jurisdiction receives information under subsection (2)(b) of this section, the local health jurisdiction shall handle the information under the requirements of WAC 246-101-515.
- (4) Each local health officer may:
- (a) Carry out additional steps necessary to verify a diagnosis reported by a health care provider;
 - (b) Require any person suspected of having a notifiable condition to submit to examinations necessary to determine the presence or absence of the condition;
 - (c) Investigate any case of a notifiable condition or other infectious or noninfectious condition, if deemed necessary; and

(d) Require the notification of additional conditions of public health importance occurring within the jurisdiction of the local health officer.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050, 70.28.032, and 70.24.130. WSR 21-11-040 and 22-01-175, § 246-101-505, filed 5/12/21 and 12/17/21, effective 1/1/23. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 11-02-065, § 246-101-505, filed 1/4/11, effective 2/4/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.24.130 and 70.24.380. WSR 05-11-110, § 246-101-505, filed 5/18/05, effective 6/18/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050 (2)(d), 70.05.050 and 70.05.060. WSR 03-06-003, § 246-101-505, filed 2/19/03, effective 2/19/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 00-23-120, § 246-101-505, filed 11/22/00, effective 12/23/00.]