

By Email To: All GPs in Somerset

Health Protection Agency

Dorset and Somerset  
Health Protection Unit

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22 June 2010

Dear Colleague

**RE: Reminder about the new Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010**  
**Schedule 1: Notifiable Diseases with effect from 6 April 2010**  
**Schedule 2: Registered Medical Practitioner Notification form**

Further to our letter of 29 April 2010, we would like to summarise the new additions to the list of notifiable diseases.

The additions to Schedule 1 are:

- Legionnaires' disease
- Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (HUS), which can be a marker for infection with *E.coli* O157
- Brucellosis
- Invasive Group A Streptococcal Infections (IGAS)

Ophthalmia neonatorum and Relapsing Fever are no longer notifiable.

We are also re-sending Schedules 1 and 2 as separate documents with this letter for your use.

The primary features of the new Regulations are as follows:

- The new Regulations have adopted an 'all hazards' approach and now encompass infectious diseases and contamination with chemicals or radiation.
- Schedule 1 is an updated version of the previous list of notifiable diseases to reflect up-to-date epidemiological and scientific evidence.
- Doctors (Registered Medical Practitioners – RMPs) continue to be required to notify cases of diseases as detailed in the Regulations and under Schedule 1 to the Regulations.
- RMPs should notify other infectious diseases that are not included in Schedule 1 if they present, or could present, significant harm to human health (eg emerging or new infections).
- They should also notify cases of contamination with chemicals and radiation that may cause significant harm to human health.

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Links to the updated Legislation can be found on

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_114510](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114510)

Please notify us if you notice an unusual increase in cases of a particular disease or cluster of symptoms, which could benefit from further investigation. We can assist in the investigation of ill effects attributed to non infectious agents.

To comply with the new Regulations, notifications must be made on suspicion of a diagnosis as public health interventions can often be made before the diagnosis is confirmed.

Please continue to report notifiable diseases to the:

**Dorset and Somerset Health Protection Unit, Somerset Team**  
**Level 2, The Wing, East Reach House, East Reach**  
**TAUNTON, Somerset TA1 3EN**

**Tel: 01823 287817 Fax: 01823 287819 Email: [somersetphu@somerset.nhs.uk](mailto:somersetphu@somerset.nhs.uk)**

For urgent notifications of matters of serious public health significance please continue to contact us on the above number during working hours or out of hours on: 01823 333444 and ask for the First On-call for Health Protection.

The notification form for completion by RMPs (Schedule 2) attached to this letter is also available on the Health Protection Agency's website: <http://www.hpa.org.uk>

Many thanks for your continued assistance.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Mark Salter**  
**Consultant in Communicable Disease Control**  
**Dorset and Somerset Health Protection Unit**

Encs: Schedule 1 Notifiable Diseases with effect from 6 April 2010  
Schedule 2 RMP Notification form