



Public Health Administration

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Infectious Disease and Vaccine Guidance on Senate Bill 1152 for San Bernardino County

Persons experiencing homelessness can face significant obstacles in accessing health services including basic health screenings and immunizations. SB 1152 requires hospitals to develop a written homeless patient discharge planning policy that coordinates services and referrals with regional social services agencies, medical care and county behavioral health services. This document is aimed at identifying specific communicable disease interventions and discharge planning strategies conforming to the requirements of SB 1152.

Diseases of Public Health Concern

San Bernardino County has a high morbidity of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and congenital syphilis. Complications of STDs can cause significant adverse health consequences if left untreated. Many infants with congenital syphilis are born to homeless mothers in San Bernardino County. At-risk and homeless populations may also experience added burdens of enteric diseases including Shigella and Salmonella. Untreated and chronic conditions can place additional and unnecessary burdens on the health care system.

Health Screenings

Offering health screening services at the hospital facility is recommended to ensure timely identification and treatment of illnesses. If screening services are not provided, referrals for STD screening should be arranged based on the patient's insurance provider and planned prior to discharge.

Upon intake, screening for the following health concerns is recommended:

- Chlamydia (CT), gonorrhea (GC) and syphilis
 - Syphilis screenings should include both a non-treponemal test (like an RPR with titer) and treponemal test (TPPA). Pregnant individuals must be given special care and consideration.
- HIV and Hepatitis C—screen on a case-by-case basis, depending on whether the patient is an injection drug user or engages in risky sexual behaviors.
- Tuberculosis (TB)— screen homeless or other at-risk groups annually.
 - The gold standard for testing is the IGRA.
- Consider screening for Shigella infection in patients with compatible symptoms, including diarrhea (bloody or non-bloody), fever and abdominal pain.

Discharge planning should include linkage to care with the patient's primary provider in step with the patient's healthcare plan. This should be carefully coordinated by hospital staff to ensure proper follow-up and treatment. If the patient does not have insurance, a referral to a San Bernardino County Public Health Clinic or any Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) can be planned.

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Immunizations

It is recommended for persons experiencing homelessness to receive hepatitis A vaccine (if not previously vaccinated) and an annual influenza vaccine. Considerations to vaccinate for hepatitis B, meningococcal, varicella, pertussis and shingles should be made on a case-by-case basis. If vaccine refusals occur, document declinations in patient records.

- Annually, the Communicable Disease Section (CDS) receives a limited number of State-purchased influenza vaccine for distribution to eligible Community Partners. The intent of the State-purchased influenza vaccine is to be administered to the uninsured and under-insured public. To obtain information on how to apply for the program, please contact a Health Education Specialist at 1-800-722-4794.
- For the purpose of responding to vaccine preventable disease (VPD) outbreaks, Federally-funded Section 317 vaccine doses may become available when approved by California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The 317-supplied vaccine can be administered to any individual, regardless of insurance coverage status, only during the prevention and control of a vaccine preventable disease outbreak effort approved by the CDPH.

Communicable Disease Outbreaks

During communicable disease outbreaks, CDS works closely with CDPH to coordinate and support outbreak response efforts. CDS establishes communication with hospitals and community partners to provide accurate information about the outbreak, control measures, risk levels and any recommended health screenings and vaccinations.

Disease Reporting

The Communicable Disease Section relies on our public health partners to report more than 85 communicable diseases as mandated by California law. For more information on reportable diseases and conditions refer to: [Why Report?](#)

The Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) is required to be completed by providers. On the reverse of the CMR is a list of conditions reportable by providers under California Code of Regulations Title 17 Section 2500. For conditions that require immediate reporting, please contact the Communicable Disease Section (CDS) at 1-800-722-4794, Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. After hours, please call (909) 356-3805 and ask for the Public Health Duty Officer.

Follow-up Care: County Resources for the Uninsured

San Bernardino County Federally Qualified Health Centers

Adelanto Health Center

11336 Bartlett Avenue, Suite 11
Adelanto, CA 92391

Hesperia Health Center

16453 Bear Valley Rd
Hesperia, CA 92345

Ontario Health Center

150 E. Holt Blvd.
Ontario, CA 91761

San Bernardino Health Center

606 E. Mill Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415

To schedule a clinic appointment call 1-800-722-4777