



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MEMORANDUM

Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor

Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D.  
Cabinet Secretary

DATE: June 10, 2011

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Regulatory Agencies and Professional Licensing Boards

FROM: Loretta Haddy, PhD, MS, MA, Director/State Epidemiologist *LH*  
Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services

RE: Role of Healthcare Regulatory Agencies and Professional Licensing Boards in Healthcare Associated Outbreaks and Infection Control Breach

This memorandum is written to summarize the discussion and agreement between the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health (WVBPH) Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) and healthcare regulatory agencies and professional licensing boards during the meeting on May 26, 2011.

We request healthcare regulatory agency and professional licensing boards to notify DIDE about any infection control breaches or healthcare associated outbreaks immediately by telephone: 304-558-5358 (24/7) or 1-800-423-1271 (in West Virginia). Dr Harry Tweel, representing West Virginia local health departments, requested notification of the local health department as well. DIDE and local health department will investigate to determine if there is a healthcare associated outbreak or infection control breach. Health departments will identify the source of the outbreak and make recommendations for infection prevention and control. When infection control breaches are identified, health departments will investigate to identify the nature of the risk, the population at risk, and make recommendations for screening and educating potentially exposed persons, if indicated.

Health departments will communicate the findings of healthcare associated outbreaks or infection control breaches with healthcare regulatory agency and professional licensing boards at the close of the outbreak or during an investigation, if substandard practices are identified, or if there is possible ongoing risk to health because of failure to diagnose, failure to treat, or failure to implement prevention and control measures.

Thank you for taking time to meet with BPH and discuss this important issue. Please feel free to contact Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services, DIDE at 304-558-5358 should you have any questions.