



Failure to Report: Citable

Effective December 24, 1996, failure to report communicable diseases and other reportable conditions by physicians is considered an offense of **“unprofessional conduct”** and could result in action taken by the Citation and Fine Program of the Medical Board of California.

Reports by healthcare providers form the basis for monitoring and controlling communicable diseases in Monterey County.

The information provided is crucial for interrupting transmission, recognizing and controlling outbreaks, following trends, and informing the medical community about local occurrence of communicable diseases.

The Communicable Disease Unit of the Monterey County Health Department prefers to work cooperatively with clinicians; however, physicians who refuse to cooperate or who repeatedly fail to report may be referred to the Medical Board for disciplinary action.

Physicians and other healthcare providers are required by California law (Health and Safety Code

Section 120250 and California Code of Regulations, Section 2500) to report certain diseases.

A physician’s failure to report is defined as:

- No report received**
- Incomplete reporting where all requested information is not provided in the required timeframe**
- Delayed reports not adhering to the required timeframe**

Fines range from \$100 to \$2500 for each failure to report. Citations will be disclosed to any inquiring member of the public, including the press, and will be purged five years following date of issuance.

Many physicians are not aware of their responsibility to report certain communicable diseases (cases or suspect) to the Health Department.

Laboratory reporting of a particular disease does not relieve the physician of this responsibility.

Patient consent is not needed to report cases or suspected cases, or to supply additional information requested by Public Health.

Reports should include the following information:

The disease or condition being reported, date of onset, date of diagnosis, patient’s full name, address, telephone number, occupation, ethnic group, social security number, sex, age, date of birth, and date of death (if applicable). The person making the report should provide their name, address, telephone number, and fax number. Physicians can request a copy of the Confidential Morbidity Form by calling (831) 755-4521 or by visiting our website: <http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/health/ForPhysicians/>

For reportable diseases and HIV/AIDS reporting, please contact the Communicable Disease Unit

All phone and fax numbers are area code 831.

Phone: 755-4521

For reporting tuberculosis, please contact the Tuberculosis Control Unit

Phone: 755-4593

Fax: 796-1272