

# Welcome to the Reporting Guide



Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency  
All Hazards Public Health Authority

September 1, 2003

Dear Health Care Providers:

The health and the well-being of the citizens of our county depend on continuous vigilance by medical professionals like you.

Together, we face routine public health problems such as bites by rabid animals or poisonings by potato salad. We care for people with communicable diseases like meningitis, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. We may confront epidemics of common or exotic diseases at any time. And we must now be alert for signs of the unthinkable – the specter of bioterrorism.

**Critical to success of all public health scenarios is reporting from the medical front lines.** That's why reporting is mandated by California law. Without complete and current information about diseases and conditions in our county, our Disease Control Unit could not generate accurate statistics or coordinate effective public health interventions.

To that end, we offer this *Reporting Guide* to help physicians, clinics, and labs know what to report, how to report, when to report, and why. This binder is modular to accommodate revisions and additions that we'll send you from time to time.

We appreciate your comments and suggestions on how to make the reporting process easier and our public health efforts more effective.

Sincerely,

David McNutt, MD, MPH  
County Health Officer

## Disease Control Unit

☎ 454-4114

📠 454-5049 fax

📞📞 471-1183 hotline  
off hours, weekend, & holidays

🖱️ [www.santacruzhealth.org](http://www.santacruzhealth.org)

📠 Disease Control Unit  
SCC Health Services Agency  
1060 Emeline Avenue, Bldg. F  
Santa Cruz CA 95060

## Public Health Lab

☎ 454-5445

📠 454-5000 fax

## Environmental Health

☎ 454-2022

## Vector Control

☎ 454-2590

## Animal Services

☎ 454-7303

## ALPHA

All Hazards Public Health Authority

☎ 454-7529

*All Santa Cruz County numbers above  
are area code 831*

## CDC

## Bioterrorism Hotline

(770) 488-7100



During major emergencies, please limit calls and faxes to context-urgent topics only. Keep vital lines of communication open.

**Example:** During a bioterrorism attack, you would report exotic or severe conditions (such as smallpox, anthrax, plague, VHF, Q fever, Nipah virus, botulism, ricin toxin, etc.) in previously unaffected populations, but you would not clog the system with reports of simple chlamydia infections.