

## Disease Control and Prevention

Part of the Milam County Health Department's responsibility is to monitor, track, control and/or prevent the spread of disease in our community. The diseases in the table below should be reported to the Milam County Health Department.

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### Who, What, Where, When and Why of Disease Reporting

#### **What is disease reporting?**

The process of letting the state know of diseases and conditions in a local area. Reporting can be either passive or active. Passive reporting occurs when we are called with a report. Active is when we contact a hospital or clinic looking for reports. You may also use syndromic surveillance, which is collecting information on symptoms or drug usage instead of a specific disease.

#### **Why do we report diseases and conditions?**

To establish disease patterns and to stop potentially dangerous disease outbreaks from occurring. Also certain diseases and conditions are tracked by the state to determine if new or different vaccines or research are required.

#### **Who reports disease and condition?**

Any person with knowledge of a disease, but mainly hospitals, clinics and schools.

#### **When do we report?**

Follow the Texas Notifiable Conditions list. This list is updated regularly and can be found by [clicking here](#).

**Where do we report?** To report to the Milam County Health Department by e-mail, please send an email to Rae Beth Summers, RN at [rsummsers@milamcounty.net](mailto:rsummsers@milamcounty.net)

Doctors and nurses will report to their local health department or to the regional health department if they do not have a local. Health

Departments report to the state through the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS). Some conditions also require further reporting to disease specific areas such as zoonosis. To report a disease by phone please call (254)697-7039.

### **HIPAA: Patient Rights and Disease Reporting**

As a health department, we are allowed certain privileges under HIPAA. We can collect reports without the patients consent as long as we are using them to comply with state reporting guidelines. Once we have the report we are then bound by the same HIPAA laws as healthcare.

For more information on these and many other diseases, please visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).