**Mandatory Reporting in Alaska**

October 2020

The State of Alaska recently made a very important change in requirements for medical workers. Medical workers are now required to report suspected child sexual abuse not only to the Office of Children’s Services, but to local law enforcement, as well. Please read on for a better understanding of reporting requirements in Alaska.

**What is it?**

The State of Alaska requires certain workers to report certain medical conditions to state offices.

**What has to be reported?**

Child abuse and neglect

Birth defects

Infants affected or exposed to controlled substances

Infant hearing

Elderly abuse and neglect

Cancer and brain tumors

Immunization Administration data

Occupational illness

Blood lead test results

Deaths reported to the medical examiner

Burn injuries

Knife injuries

Gunshot wounds

Public Health Emergency Infectious Diseases (for a full list, see AS 18.05; 7 AAC 27.005)

Certain infections when discovered by laboratories (see 7 AAC 27.007)

Heavy metal and toxic exposure

**Who has to report?**

Doctors

Nurses

Community Health Aides

Chiropractors

Dentists

PA’s

Most other medical professionals. For a full list of medical practitioners require to report, see Alaska Statute (AS) 47.17.290

Administrative officers of a medical institution

Employees of an organizational unit providing counseling or treatment to individuals seeking drug or alcohol treatment

Employees of domestic violence and sexual assault programs, crisis intervention and prevention programs

The first person in the system, or the provider who first identifies the reportable event or condition, must make the report.

**Who do you report to?**

Child abuse or neglect – Office of Children’s Services (OCS) immediately upon assessment.

\*Suspected child sexual abuse must also be reported to local law enforcement

Birth defects – State of Alaska Birth Defect Register Coordinator (usually completed by an organization’s Health Information and Technology department’s quarterly report)

Infants affected or exposed to controlled substances – Office of Children’s Services (OCS)

Infant hearing – Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program usually by monthly reporting to the into eSP, OZ-Systems, the web-based database.

Vulnerable Adult abuse or neglect – State of Alaska, Adult Protection Services within 24 hours.

Cancer and brain tumors – DPS tumor registry within six months.

Immunization Administration data – to VacTrAK, the State of Alaska’s Immunization Information System, within 14 days of vaccination.

Occupational Illness – Department of Public Health within 5 working days.

Blood Lead Test Results – Department of Public Health (see 7 AAC 27.014 for detailed reporting requirements).

Burn injuries, knife wounds, and gunshots – the Department of Public Safety (State Troopers), a local law enforcement agency, or a VPSO. Gunshots must also be reported to the DPH Section of Epidemiology.

Infectious diseases, laboratory infections, heavy metals and toxins – DPH Section of Epidemiology.

**What must you report?**

Reporting will be slightly different for each. In general, you must report patient identifying information and address, parents’ names and contact information if the patient is a minor, the nature and extent of harm, any suspected abusers with contact information if known, and any other information helpful to an investigation. Many of the reporting requirement types have online databases, or an organization is able to submit weekly or monthly reports through their health information systems.

**How can you ensure compliance?**

The best way to ensure compliance is to have a comprehensive Procedure in place outlining who has to report, what has to be reported, and to whom reports go. The above is a basic start, but you are welcome to contact the ANTHC Ethics and Compliance Department if you wish a more comprehensive document.