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Dear Medical Providers

Borrelia burgdorferi infection (Lyme disease) is now reportable by both health care providers and laboratories. Health care providers are required to report more than 90 confirmed or suspected diseases and conditions, including Lyme disease, to the local health department (California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 17, Section 2500). As of June 30, 2005, laboratories are also required to report *Borrelia burgdorferi* infection to the local health department (CCR, Title 17, Section 2505). This change to the reporting requirements improves public health surveillance and knowledge of the epidemiology of this disease in Californians.

We are now receiving more positive *B burgdorferi* laboratory results. When the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is notified of a reportable disease, we contact the clinician and patient to confirm the diagnosis and collect information on demographics, clinical signs and symptoms, and patient exposures. Data collection and disease monitoring on reportable diseases is required by the California Department of Health Services (CDHS). The information is used to assess the local epidemiology of the disease as well as guide public health interventions and program resources.

SFDPH must complete the state reporting forms when a case of Lyme disease is reported to us. We will be requesting your assistance in completing the Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) form for anyone living in San Francisco who is reported with Lyme disease or any other reportable disease. The CMR and a list of the reportable diseases are available at URL <http://www.sfdph.org/cdcp> (click on "Report a Disease" on the left side of the page). Completed CMR forms may be faxed to 415-554-2848, or you may call us at 415-554-2830. The state Lyme disease case report form is also available on our website or by calling us.

Also available are an educational brochure, a wallet card and a poster developed by CDHS about tick avoidance. We look forward to collaborating with you on this public health matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at (415) 554-2830.