

NOTIFICATION PROCESS FOR SYPHILIS, GONORRHOEA AND HIV/AIDS

Syphilis, gonorrhoea and HIV/AIDS are the only sexually transmitted infections (STIs) which are notifiable diseases.

Unlike other notifiable diseases, STI notifications **must not** include any identifiable information. This is to protect the anonymity of the patient and reduce the likelihood that people will avoid seeking testing and treatment.

The notification process for STIs is different to other notifiable diseases. The differences are:

1. Only AIDS cases should be notified directly to Regional Public Health (RPH) by the treating health provider.
2. For syphilis and gonorrhoea the notification is made to ESR using the forms available on their website.
3. HIV cases are notified directly to RPH by the laboratory.

STI	NOTIFICATION PROCESS	CLINICAL ADVICE
Syphilis	The treating health practitioner must complete the notification form which is available on the ESR STI Surveillance page . The completed form must be faxed (04 978 6690) or posted¹ to ESR.	Consult with sexual health services (SHS) for all cases
Gonorrhoea	The treating health practitioner must complete the web-based questionnaire for their case. This is accessed via the ESR STI Surveillance page	Consult with SHS if necessary
HIV	The laboratory notifies all HIV positive lab results directly to RPH. A web-based HIV questionnaire link will be sent to the treating health practitioner within 2 weeks of the notification.	Refer to Infectious Diseases (ID) or SHS
AIDS	The treating health practitioner must complete the initial AIDS notification form and fax it to RPH on 04 570 9373 . A web-based HIV questionnaire link will be sent to the treating health practitioner within 2 weeks of the notification.	Refer to ID or SHS
Outbreak	Working hours: Contact RPH on 04 570 9267 After hours: Contact the on-call medical officer of health on 04 570 9007	

SHS: Wellington Sexual Health Services. Phone: 0800 188 881

ID: Infectious Diseases team. Contact via Wellington Hospital 04 385 5999

¹ Send to STI Analyst, Health Intelligence Team - ESR, PO Box 50-348, Porirua 5240. Phone 04 9140770

Information that needs to be included in the notification

The STI notification questionnaire covers the following:

- Patient demographics: age, gender, ethnicity
- Clinical details
- Testing details
- Risk factors:
 - Gender identity
 - Sexual behavior: number and sex of partners
 - City where infection likely to have been acquired
- Treatment
- Contact tracing details

STI CONTACT TRACING/PARTNER NOTIFICATION

Contact tracing is key to preventing further spread of an STI. Identifying sexual contacts of a person with an STI facilitates early detection and treatment of infection in the contact and education on how to prevent future infection. Timeframes for contact tracing vary (see table below).

Because syphilis, gonorrhoea and HIV/AIDS can only be notified on an anonymised basis, the treating health practitioner, and not RPH, must initiate and co-ordinate contact tracing. The Wellington Sexual Health Service and the Wellington HIV Clinical Nurse Specialist can provide advice and support.

STI	How far back to trace sexual contacts
Syphilis	At least 3 months (plus duration of symptoms) and up to 1 year if the duration of infection is unknown. Referral to SHS is recommended.
Gonorrhoea	3 months
HIV	Refer to HIV clinical nurse specialist at Wellington Hospital.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- For information on diagnosis, management and contact tracing: New Zealand Sexual Health Society Guidelines - <https://www.nzshs.org/guidelines>.
- For regional management and referral advice: greater Wellington region health pathways - <https://3d.healthpathways.org.nz/>