

Contagious Diseases

1111.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

California Government Code 27491 mandates that the Coroner shall inquire into deaths known or suspected as due to a contagious disease and constituting a public health hazard. This policy details those specific contagious diseases requiring investigation and/or reporting by members of the Coroner Division pursuant to the County of Orange Health Care Agency's list of Reportable Diseases and Conditions.

1111.2 LIST OF REPORTABLE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS

Deputy Coroners shall conduct an investigation on all deaths with history of any disease and/ or condition listed on the County of Orange Health Care Agency's list of Reportable Diseases and Conditions. The list can be accessed through their website.

1111.3 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Any reportable disease or condition diagnosed by examination or testing performed or requested by the Coroner Division Facility, shall be reported to the Orange County Health Care Agency within the timeframe established on the above list. The Clerical Office Supervisor and/or his/her designee shall be responsible for making report by sending the appropriate documents to the Orange County Health Care Agency.

1111.4 NOTIFICATIONS TO FORENSICS STAFF AND MORTUARY REPRESENTATIVES

For any decedent transported to the Coroner Division Facility, Deputy Coroners shall alert Forensics staff when there is a known or suspected contagious disease. The Coroner Technician shall then notify the mortuary representative of any known or suspected contagious disease upon release, pursuant to Health and Safety Code 1797.189.

1111.5 INQUIRIES FROM PUBLIC

Information regarding a decedent's contagious disease may be released to members of the public only when the contagious disease is listed as a cause or significant condition on the death certificate.