



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Service Regulation
Office of the Director



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To: Administrators of all licensed Adult Care Homes in North Carolina

From: Drexdal Pratt, Director, NC Division of Health Service Regulation 
Jeffrey Engel, MD, Director, NC Division of Public Health 

Subject: Reporting of Suspected Communicable Disease Outbreaks

Session Law 2011-99 was signed by Governor Perdue on May 31, 2011. This new law, titled “An Act to Protect Adult Care Home Residents”, includes several additions and revisions to Article 1 of General Statute 131D which address infection control training, competency evaluations, and inspections in all licensed adult care homes.

One provision of Session Law 2011-99 is the addition of a new section titled 131D-4.4B: “Guidelines for reporting suspected communicable disease outbreaks”. G.S. 131D-4.4B requires the NC Department of Health and Human Services to develop guidelines prescribing the manner in which an adult care home is to report a suspected communicable disease outbreak within the facility to the local health department.

In accordance with this statute, the following guidelines have been developed for reporting of suspected communicable disease outbreaks within adult care homes:

1. The Adult Care Home Administrator or his/her designee must report all suspected communicable disease outbreaks to the local health department in which the facility is located. A suspected communicable disease outbreak is defined as any increase above expected in either:
 - a. Illnesses among residents or staff with the same identified infectious cause (e.g. evidence of the same virus or bacteria found on laboratory testing), or
 - b. Illnesses among residents or staff with the same or similar symptoms (e.g. vomiting and diarrhea or fever and cough) but no identified infectious cause.
2. Such reports must be made by phone within 24 hours of the time when the outbreak is reasonably suspected to exist.

If you have questions about reporting of suspected communicable disease outbreaks or are unable to locate the phone number for your local health department, please contact the Communicable Disease Branch of the NC Division of Public Health at 919-733-3419.

