PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

CHANGES TO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

JULY 31, 2020

Background

Reporting of communicable illness to the local health department not only enables prompt response and containment, but also allows the state and county to analyze the demographics of morbidity and mortality and determine when particular diseases or outbreaks disproportionately affect a particular region or population. However, these analyses are largely dependent on the promptness and completeness of clinician reporting. As part of this process, both the State of California and/or the Riverside County Public Health Officer may require additional information to be provided with mandated reports.

Actions Requested of Clinicians

Pursuant to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)'s publicly noticed changes in DPH-20-021 dated July 10, 2020, Title XVII of the California Code of Regulations §2500 has been amended to require that providers separate race and ethnicity in their reporting. Race groups defined by the U.S. Census may include American Indian & Alaskan Native, Asian, Black, Native Hawai’ian-Pacific Islander, and White; ethnicity groups differentiate Hispanic and Non-Hispanic individuals. Race and ethnicity information is critically important particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic where this information is frequently not provided.

As part of the same amendment, providers are also required to report:

- Current gender identity (one of: Male; Female; Trans male/Transman; Trans female/Transwoman; Genderqueer or non-binary; Identity not listed; Declined to answer; Unknown)
- Sex assigned at birth (one of: Male; Female; Declined to answer; Unknown)
- Sexual orientation (one of: Heterosexual or straight; Bisexual; Gay, lesbian, or same gender loving; Orientation not listed; Questioning/unsure/patient doesn’t know; Declined to answer; Unknown)

We appreciate your help in keeping all residents of Riverside County healthy.

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4065 County Circle Drive, Riverside, California 92503

www.rivcoph.org