



Virginia
Regulatory
Town Hall

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Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) Agency Background Document

Agency name	Department of Health, Office of Epidemiology
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation	12 VAC 5-90
Regulation title	Disease Reporting and Control
Action title	Update of Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control
Document preparation date	August 17, 2004

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Orders 21 (2002) and 58 (1999), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*.

Purpose

Please describe the subject matter and intent of the planned regulatory action. Also include a brief explanation of the need for and the goals of the new or amended regulation.

Existing regulations will be updated to comply with current disease reporting and control policies, facilitating efforts to capture, measure and contain emerging diseases to protect the health of the population of the Commonwealth.

Legal basis

Please identify the state and/or federal legal authority to promulgate this proposed regulation, including (1) the most relevant law and/or regulation, including Code of Virginia citation and General Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable, and (2) promulgating entity, i.e., agency, board, or person. Describe the legal authority and the extent to which the authority is mandatory or discretionary.

Statutory authority to promulgate these regulations is granted to the State Board of Health by Sections 32.1-35 through 32.1-73 of the Code of Virginia.

Substance

Please detail any changes that will be proposed. For new regulations, include a summary of the proposed regulatory action. Where provisions of an existing regulation are being amended, explain how the existing regulation will be changed. Include the specific reasons why the agency has determined that the proposed regulatory action is essential to protect the health, safety, or welfare of citizens. Delineate any potential issues that may need to be addressed as the regulation is developed.

Amendments to current regulations will:

- Update disease reporting requirements, including reportable diseases and those required to report;
- Update language regarding laboratory reporting requirements;
- Update tuberculosis reporting and control requirements and definitions;
- Update requirements related to HIV testing and reporting;
- Update provisions regarding vaccine preventable diseases and toxic substance related illnesses;
- Finalize the emergency regulations on isolation and quarantine requirements; and
- Update other disease reporting and control provisions necessary to protect the health of the population of the Commonwealth.

Alternatives

Please describe all viable alternatives to the proposed regulatory action that have been or will be considered to meet the essential purpose of the action.

Existing regulations – needful of amendment from time to time in order to protect public health through effective disease surveillance – are being amended to keep them abreast of current knowledge and understanding in effectively carrying out the Board’s disease-related mission. No feasible alternatives exist.

Family impact

Assess the potential impact of the proposed regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability.

The proposed changes will indirectly protect and improve the health of the people of the Commonwealth. No adverse impact on the institution of the family or on family stability are anticipated.