**This is an official**
**MS Health Alert Network (HAN) – Update**

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| **MESSAGE ID:** | **MSHAN-20230412-00592-UPD (Health Update)** |
| **RECIPIENTS:** | **All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, PAs, and Healthcare Providers – Statewide** |
| | **Wednesday, April 12, 2023** |
| **SUBJECT:** | **Emergency Addition of Syphilis Infection During Pregnancy as a Reportable Disease and Requirement of Syphilis Testing During Pregnancy** |

Dear Colleagues,

- On March 7, 2023, the Mississippi State Department of Health updated the Rules and Regulations Governing Reportable Diseases and Conditions in Mississippi to require syphilis testing during pregnancy and reporting of syphilis infection during pregnancy. See 19717.pdf (ms.gov) discussing these emergency changes.
- Due to the high syphilis rates and high risk of syphilis acquisition during pregnancy in Mississippi, the emergent additions are modified **to reflect that syphilis testing should be done for all pregnant people at time of delivery (regardless of prior testing in the current pregnancy) and that providers should ensure appropriate treatment for both syphilis infections during pregnancy and for congenital syphilis infections**.
- **Updated Emergency Requirements**: Please see the updated syphilis testing and reporting requirements in the Rules and Regulations below:
  - Syphilis infection in pregnancy is explicitly added to the list of Reportable Diseases and Conditions as a Class 1B disease, requiring reporting to the Mississippi State Department of Health by telephone within one business day of first knowledge or suspicion Reports should be made to the STD/HIV Office at 601-576-7723 (see Reporting below).
  - All Mississippi physicians and medical practitioners providing prenatal care to pregnant people are required to:
    - Perform syphilis testing for all pregnant people in their first trimester (or at the initial visit for prenatal care) and again in the third trimester (28-32 weeks).
    - Perform syphilis testing for all pregnant people at the time of delivery.
    - Ensure appropriate treatment for syphilis infections during pregnancy and for congenital syphilis per the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) treatment guidelines (2021 STI Treatment Guidelines – Syphilis: Updated diagnostic, treatment, and screening recommendations for STIs (July 22, 2021)).
    - Ensure appropriate reporting of syphilis infection in pregnancy to MSDH.
- **Additional Recommendations:** In addition to the updated requirements to the Rules and Regulations, Mississippi physicians and providers should consider the following recommendations:
  - Consider syphilis testing for any women who delivers a stillborn infant.
  - Consider not discharging neonates from the hospital unless the syphilis status of the mother has been documented at least once in the current pregnancy.
  - See Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021 (cdc.gov)
- **Reporting:**
  - Congenital syphilis and syphilis infection in pregnancy are Class 1B reportable conditions in Mississippi, requiring a direct report by telephone within one business day after first knowledge or suspicion. **Reports of congenital syphilis and syphilis infection in pregnancy should be called to the MSDH Office of STD/HIV at 601-576-7723.**

MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- o In Mississippi, any clinician, physician, nurse practitioner or other healthcare professional who has knowledge of a reportable condition is required to report to MSDH in the appropriate manner and timeframe dictated by the condition.
- o Reports should include patient's name, address, age and/or date of birth, race, sex, the disease or suspected disease or condition, the date of onset, method of diagnosis, and name of attending physician.
- o Resources:
  - Reportable Diseases List https://msdh.ms.gov/page/resources/877.pdf
  - Rules and Regulations Governing Reportable Diseases https://msdh.ms.gov/page/resources/1719.pdf

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist

*Alerting Message Specification Settings*

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| **Originating Agency:** | Mississippi State Department of Health |
| **Alerting Program:** | **MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)** |
| **Message Identifier:** | CDCHAN-20230412-00592-**UPD** |
| **Program (HAN) Type:** | **Health Update** |
| **Status (Type):** | Actual () |
| **Message Type:** | Update |
| **Reference:** | MSHAN-00592 |
| **Severity:** | Unknown |
| **Acknowledgement:** | No |
| **Sensitive:** | Not Sensitive |
| **Message Expiration:** | Undetermined |
| **Urgency:** | Undetermined |
| **Delivery Time:** | 600 minutes |

## *Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings*

**Originating Agency:** A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

**Alerting Program:** The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

**Message Identifier:** A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**).

**Program (HAN) Type:** Categories of Health Alert Messages.

**Health Alert**: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory**: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update**: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Health Info Service**: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Status (Type):**

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| Actual: | Communication or alert refers to a live event |
| Exercise: | Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert |
| Test: | Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded |

**Message Type:**

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| Alert: | Indicates an original Alert |
| Update: | Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded |
| Cancel: | Indicates prior alert has been cancelled |

**Reference:** For a communication or alert with a Message Type of "Update" or "Cancel", this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. "n/a" = Not Applicable.

**Severity:**

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| Extreme: | Extraordinary threat to life or property |
| Severe: | Significant threat to life or property |
| Moderate: | Possible threat to life or property |
| Minor: | Minimal threat to life or property |
| Unknown: | Unknown threat to life or property |

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

**Sensitive:**

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| Sensitive: | Indicates the alert contains sensitive content |
| Not Sensitive: | Indicates non-sensitive content |

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined.

**Urgency:** Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).