

# CENTRAL KAROO

## DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



### SECTION: MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES

#### NOTIFIABLE MEDICAL CONDITIONS



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The Section aims to create an environment supportive of good health and minimize those factors detrimental to our health in the Central Karoo district

The Section is focused on the needs and expectations of our communities in the Central Karoo. We seek a good relationship between the municipality and its inhabitants, with a collective responsibility for the environment to ensure that all communities will live in an environment that is beneficial to their health

#### OUR FUNCTION

The National Health Act, 2003 (Act 61 of 2003) defines Municipal Health Services as Environmental Health. In terms of Section 1 of the Act Municipal Health Services are defined as:

- Water Quality Monitoring;
- Waste Management and Monitoring;
- Food Control;
- Environmental Pollution Control;
- Health Surveillance of Premises;
- **Communicable Diseases Control;**
- Vector Control;
- Chemical Safety; and
- Management of Human Remains.

The Air Quality Management & Integrated Waste Management functions are also performed by the Section Municipal Health.

EHP's act as public arbiters of EH standards, maintaining close contact with the communities they serve. We act as advisers, educators, consultants, managers and enforcement officers (enforcing health policies), ensuring people are able to live, work & play in safe, healthy environments

#### STAFF & AREA OF SERVICE DELIVERY

EHP's are employed at our Head Office in Beaufort West as well as our Prince Albert & Laingsburg Offices

Services are rendered in ten (10) communities in the Central Karoo Region, namely Murraysburg, Beaufort West, Nelspoort, Merweville, Prince Albert, Leeu-Gamka, Klaarstroom, Prince Albert Road, Laingsburg & Matjiesfontein, as well as in the rural areas of the Beaufort West, Prince Albert & Laingsburg Districts.

#### WHAT IS A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE?

A communicable disease is an illness transmitted through contact with microorganisms.

People, animals, food, surfaces, and air can all be carriers of the microorganisms that pass infectious illnesses from one host to the next.

The exchange of fluids or contact with a contaminated substance or individual may be enough to allow a communicable disease to spread.

The environment may be rendered less suitable for the occurrence of disease in a variety of ways.

- For example, food can be kept hot or cold (rather than warm) to prevent multiplication of organisms that may be present. Breeding places can be drained or insecticides used to eliminate vectors of disease.
- Condoms can be used to prevent sexually transmitted diseases by providing a mechanical barrier to transmission.
- Reduction of crowding and appropriate ventilation can reduce the likelihood of droplet or airborne transmission.
- Respiratory protective devices can be used to prevent passage of microorganisms into the respiratory tract.

#### WHAT IS A NOTIFIABLE MEDICAL CONDITION (NMC)?

Notifiable Medical Conditions are diseases that are of public health importance because they pose significant public health risks that can result in disease outbreaks or epidemics with high case fatality rates both nationally and internationally.

## **WHY IS IT A LEGAL REQUIREMENT TO TIMEOUSLY REPORT ALL NMC?**

The only way we can control spread of infectious diseases within the population is through identification of diseased persons and implementation of necessary public health actions to ensure that the disease is not spread to other people.

Real-time efficient surveillance and reporting of such diseases provides an early warning signal and provides a window of opportunity to interrupt the disease transmission cycle.

The International Health Regulations, 2005 (IHR) and the National Health Act, 61 Of 2003 in South Africa require the rapid detection of NMC, as well as the prompt risk assessment, notification, verification and implementation of timely interventions.

## **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORTING NMC?**

Every doctor or nurse (health care provider), laboratory and medical schemes in both the public and private health sector who diagnoses a patient with any one of the NMC must report the case.

Failure to report a NMC is a criminal offence.

## **IN SOUTH AFRICA WHICH CONDITIONS ARE NOTIFIABLE?**

### **Category 1 NMC**

Must be reported immediately using the most rapid means upon clinical or laboratory diagnosis followed by a written or electronic notification within 24 hours of diagnosis.

- Acute flaccid paralysis
- Acute rheumatic fever

- Anthrax
- Botulism
- Cholera
- Diphtheria
- Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever)
- Food borne disease outbreak
- Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)
- Listeriosis
- Malaria
- Measles
- Meningococcal disease
- Pertussis
- Plague
- Poliomyelitis
- Rabies (human)
- Respiratory disease caused by a novel respiratory pathogen
- Rift valley fever (human)
- Smallpox
- Viral haemorrhagic fever diseases
- Yellow fever

### **Category 2 NMC**

Must be reported through a written or electronic notification, within 7 days of clinical or laboratory diagnosis but preferably as soon as possible following diagnosis.

- Agricultural or stock remedy poisoning
- Bilharzia (schistosomiasis)
- Brucellosis
- Congenital rubella syndrome
- Congenital syphilis
- Haemophilus influenzae type B
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Hepatitis E
- Lead poisoning
- Legionellosis
- Leprosy
- Maternal death (pregnancy, childbirth, puerperium)

- Mercury poisoning
- Soil transmitted helminths (*Ascaris Lumbricoides*, *Trichuris trichiuria*, *Ancylostoma duodenale*, *Necator americanus*)
- Tetanus
- Tuberculosis: pulmonary
- Tuberculosis: extra-pulmonary
- Tuberculosis: multidrug-resistant (MDR-TB)
- Tuberculosis: extensively drug-resistant (XDR-TB)

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