



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Eric E. Whitaker, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • www.idph.state.il.us

November 7, 2005

Dear Local Health Department Administrator:

In response to requirements for state funding under the federal reauthorization of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act, effective January 1, 2006, Illinois will adopt confidential, name-based surveillance for HIV infections. Since 1999, Illinois has conducted HIV surveillance using unique code-based identifiers, however, the majority of areas throughout the United States (43 state and local health departments) use confidential, name-based reporting methods for reporting cases of HIV and AIDS. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidelines for state and local health departments indicating that for equitable distribution of CARE dollars, HIV disease data in all states must be collected using the same standard.

HIV surveillance using unique code-based identifiers has been in place in Illinois since 1999. Name-based HIV reporting will improve the ability of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to track HIV incidence in Illinois and direct funding and resources where they are most needed.

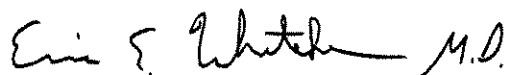
Security measures are in place to ensure the protection of all HIV/AIDS surveillance data, and the Department will continue to re-appraise these protections regularly. Confidentiality of name-based HIV reports will be protected by IDPH and local health departments to the full extent of the law. Since IDPH initiated name-based reporting of AIDS in 1981, data have consistently been kept fully secure and confidential. As with all infectious diseases reported nationally, personal identifiers are removed before data is provided to CDC.

Anonymous HIV testing, which allows people to be tested without giving their names, will continue to be available in Illinois at selected sites funded by IDPH. Information about anonymous test sites is available by calling the Illinois AIDS Hotline 800-243-2437 or TTY (for hearing impaired use only) 800-782-0423. Resources about HIV testing are available on the Internet www.hivtest.org. Please note that results of anonymous testing are not reportable to local health authorities or IDPH.

Reporting of HIV/ AIDS cases continues to be a requirement under the Control of Sexually Transmissible Diseases Code (77 Ill. Adm. 693). Forms and instructions for reporting of HIV cases by name will be available through local health departments beginning in December 2005. Each case report submitted will help ensure that Illinois receives its fair share of federal funding to support HIV prevention activities as well as medical care programs.

If you have any questions regarding name-based reporting, please contact the HIV/ AIDS Surveillance Section, 217-524-5983 or TTY (for hearing impaired use only) 800-547-0466.

Sincerely,



Eric E. Whitaker, M.D., M.P.H.
Director

CC:mm