

# Communicable Disease Investigation and Response Protocol Changes

**December 12, 2018**

**Los Angeles County  
Department of Public Health**



# PURPOSE OF TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- Provide an overview of protocol changes
- Allow time for review and revision before training and implementing
- Detailed training will be held on December 19
- Changes enacted January 7, 2019

# INTRODUCTIONS

- Lucille Rayford—Assistant Nursing Director, Community Services
- Dawn Terashita—Associate Director, Acute Communicable Disease Control

# PURPOSE OF THE PROTOCOL CHANGES

- Streamline investigation and response process, while not jeopardizing public health and safety
- Reduce DPH workload
- Improve timeliness and efficiency of disease investigations
- Prioritize efforts for diseases with greater public health impact



# BACKGROUND

- Restructuring of DPH Field Services increased need to change investigation process
- Meetings were held in Sept. 2018 to discuss ways to streamline and improve protocols
  - Participants included AMDs, PHNS, ACDC, etc.
- Changes drafted after group consensus
- After implementation, changes will be evaluated
- Hope this will foster more frequent updates and improvements and collaboration with ACDC

# CAVEATS TO THE CHANGES

- Q/I evaluation of the changes will be conducted
- Not all changes will be permanent
- Will continue to modify and improve the protocols
- Intend to regularly meet to review and improve the changes
- Your input and suggestions for improvements are valued and important
- Current changes won't be enacted until after review
- Start date: January 7, 2019

# SUMMARY OF PRIMARY PROTOCOL CHANGES

- **Reduce in-person site visits**
  - As appropriate, assess and follow-up by phone
  - Site visits as needed and if requested
- **Reduce AMD sign-off — Responsibility switches to PHNS**
  - Only for select disease investigations
  - Purpose: Improve timeliness and efficiency
- **Increase autonomy of PHNs**
- **Limit exclusion of cases and contacts to those with greater likelihood of disease transmission**
  - Reduce workload of follow-up and continued testing
  - Improve relations with the public

# LIST OF REVISED DISEASES

- **Enteric Diseases**
  - *Salmonellosis, E. coli, Shigellosis*
- **Disease Outbreaks**
  - Influenza and Respiratory Disease Outbreaks
  - Gastroenteritis Outbreaks
  - Hand Foot and Mouth Disease
  - Pediculosis (Head Lice)
  - Scabies
- **Other Diseases**
  - Hepatitis
  - Meningococcal



# SUMMARY OF CHANGES BY DISEASE



## ENTERIC DISEASES — *Salmonellosis*

- Transmission to include food sources as primary source
- PHN to notify upon admission to SNF with template letter listing contact precautions for *Salmonellosis*
- Included description of SOS
- AMD may approve some healthcare workers to return to work when asymptomatic for 48 hours
- Reworded section on symptomatic contacts in SOS
- For asymptomatic contacts, **no action needed**
- Non-SOS may return to work when asymptomatic for 48 hours
- Added section on suspected outbreaks
- Added section on daycare
- Reworded section on presumptive cases

## ENTERIC DISEASES — *E. coli*, Shigellosis

For asymptomatic contacts:

- No further action needed
- No stool cultures needed
- Do **NOT** exclude from SOS



# **DISEASE OUTBREAKS**

**Influenza and Respiratory Disease Outbreaks;  
Gastroenteritis Outbreaks;  
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease;  
Pediculosis (Head Lice); Scabies**



# Influenza and Respiratory Disease Outbreaks

- Currently two types of forms depending on outbreak setting:
  1. Outbreaks in SNFs (same form for all outbreaks including influenza and respiratory diseases)
  2. Outbreaks in non-healthcare settings (only for influenza and respiratory diseases)
- B73 updated to reflect CDPH outbreak definition revisions in 2018
  - New outbreak definitions for influenza outbreaks and for respiratory disease outbreaks
  - New definitions for outbreak setting (healthcare-associated, non-healthcare associated institutions, and other non-residential congregate settings)
- Case investigation forms currently being revised to incorporate these CDPH case definition changes
  - DPH case investigation forms will include all the CDPH elements
  - **Will no longer be necessary to complete CDPH form!**



## GI OUTBREAKS

- Can initiate investigation by phone
- No other major changes made

# HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

- Investigation by phone unless special circumstances or requested
- Increased criteria for an outbreak: minimum of 5 cases within a 72-hour (3 day) period and epidemiologically linked
- Removed recommendation to obtain specimens for diagnosis





## **PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)**

- Investigation by phone unless special circumstances or requested
- Increased criteria for an outbreak: minimum of 5 cases within a 72-hour (3 day) period and epidemiologically linked



# SCABIES

- Will remove crusted/atypical scabies from LAC list of reportable diseases
- Criteria for outbreak: 2 or more cases, **ANY** type
- Encourage phone consultations
- In-person site visits as needed and if requested



# OTHER DISEASES

## Hepatitis and Meningococcal



# HEPATITIS

Investigation Flowcharts created for all

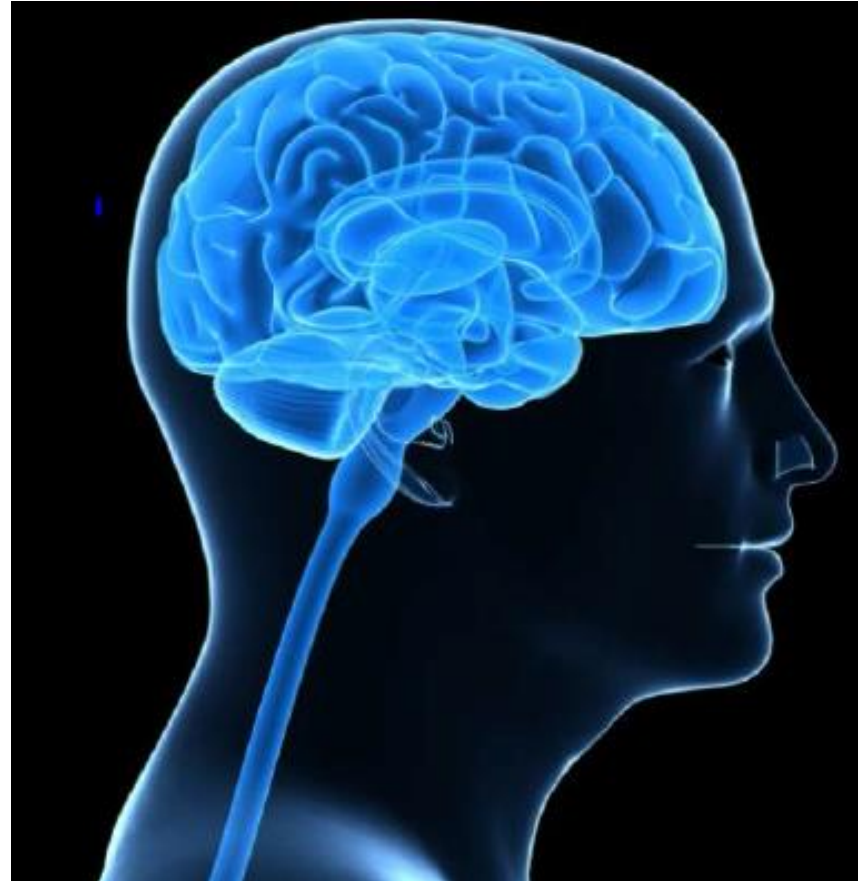
- Hepatitis A
  - Define elevated liver enzymes as ALT>100
  - Expanded age range for hep A vaccine post-exposure prophylaxis:
    - Previously from 12 months to 40 years; NOW 12 months to **59 years**
  - Updated investigation form, adjust weblinks
  - Added references to CDC recommendations for immunoglobulin use and on post-exposure prophylaxis for exposure to hep A
  - Clarified that CS will investigate hospitalized suspect case reports

# HEPATITIS (continued)

- Hepatitis B
  - Updated section on control of contacts: post-exposure guidelines updated to CDC's guidance Jan 2018
- Hepatitis C — No changes

# MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

- During business hours, case notification to PHNS (cc Area Medical Director)
- Meningococcal Case Risk Factor Form to be completed by ACDC
- Information on vaccines updated



# QUESTIONS?



## NEXT STEPS

- Continue to provide us with your questions and concerns
- Materials including today's slides are provided at [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/DiseaseProtocolRevisions.htm](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/DiseaseProtocolRevisions.htm)
- Register for training December 19

**Thank you for attending!**