



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

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**Randolph F. Snowden**  
Agency Director

## **HIV/AIDS: New for 2009**

Dear Healthcare Provider,

As you are aware, medical providers, laboratories, hospitals, and facilities are required to report new cases of HIV and AIDS to the Napa County Public Health Division within 7 calendar days. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with updated information on California law and reporting requirements related to HIV/AIDS.

### **SB 1184: New California Law Requiring CD4 Reporting**

As of September 26, 2008 clinical laboratories are now required to report CD4 count test results within 7 days to the Public Health Officer under SB 1184. This new requirement will help ensure a more accurate picture of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and, in turn, help draw down additional federal funding for HIV/AIDS services.

When a laboratory-reported CD4 count cannot be verified as originating from a previously reported HIV/AIDS case, the Napa County Public Health Division is required to contact the medical provider to determine if there is laboratory or clinical evidence of HIV infection in the patient's medical record. In cases where there is no evidence of HIV infection, the medical care provider does not need to complete the HIV/AIDS case report form, perform HIV tests or otherwise re-evaluate the patient's status. A verbal statement from the provider or a staff member will be sufficient to verify lack of evidence for HIV infection.

### **Other HIV/AIDS Related Laws: New for 2009**

The Governor approved AB 1894 following recent information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that the national incidence of HIV is 40% higher than previously estimated. AB 1894 requires health insurers to cover an HIV test even if it is unrelated to a patient's primary diagnosis or presenting complaint. It is hoped that this bill will be an important next step in making routine HIV screening standard medical practice in California by ensuring that both patients and their health care providers are aware that insurance will cover testing.

The Governor also signed AB 2899, which allows publicly funded HIV testing sites to provide educational services to individuals and to offer prevention education through various methods including video, couples and group oriented programs.

Please feel free to contact Napa HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program Contractor, Jim Carr, at (707) 259-8729 with questions. For additional information on HIV/AIDS, including services available in Napa County, please visit <http://www.solanonapaHIVinfo.org/>.

Sincerely,  
Karen Smith, MD, MPH  
Public Health Officer