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May 22, 2012

To: Wisconsin Healthcare Providers, Infection Preventionists, and Public Health Officials
From: Jeffrey P. Davis, MD, Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases and Emergency Response
Re: Notification of change in Lyme disease reporting requirements in Wisconsin

On January 1, 2008, the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH) began using the Lyme disease national surveillance case definition adopted by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in accordance with the 2007 CSTE position statement. This revision permits states and territories to follow a standardized method of surveillance by providing guidance on qualified laboratory procedures and clinical manifestation to classify cases into confirmed, probable, and suspect categories. DPH began reporting confirmed and probable cases of Lyme disease to the CDC on January 1, 2008, prior to that date only confirmed cases were reported. Since implementing the revised Lyme disease national surveillance case definition, it has become apparent that the current Lyme disease surveillance system places a substantial burden on reporters of diseases and public health agencies and is no longer sustainable in Wisconsin.

Effective June 1, 2012, the Wisconsin Division of Public Health is modifying the requirements of Lyme disease reporting in Wisconsin to reduce the Lyme disease surveillance burden.

Required reporting via Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS) or paper copy:

- Continue to report all cases of erythema migrans (EM) rash occurring in Wisconsin residents that have been diagnosed by a physician or a medical professional. For surveillance purposes, EM rash is defined as a red macule or papule that expands during a period of days to weeks to a diameter that is greater than or equal to 5 cm. The skin lesion often has partial central clearing.
- Continue to report date of illness onset and patient demographic information including address, birth date, gender, race and ethnicity.
- Laboratories must continue to report all Lyme positive laboratory results.

Optional reporting (change to current reporting procedure):

- Unless requested by the local health department, reporting of cases without EM rash is now optional.
- Unless requested by the local health department, reporting of signs and symptoms other than EM rash is now optional.

If you have further questions, please contact Diep (Zip) Hoang Johnson at the Wisconsin Division of Public Health at 608-267-0249.