



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

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October 26, 2007

Patrick J. McConnon, M.P.H.
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4015

Dear Mr. McConnon:

Dr. Julie Louise Gerberding has asked me to respond to your letter of July 9 regarding the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) approved position statement 07-EC-02 titled "CSTE official list of Nationally Notifiable Conditions" at your annual conference held during the week of June 28, 2007. Please excuse the delay of this response.

We agree this position statement outlines efforts that will ultimately support more timely and complete reporting of conditions of importance to the public's health. We are committed to working in close collaboration with CSTE and others to bring to completion the important outcomes described in the position statement. This position statement will require that CDC and CSTE continue to collaborate to develop and/or refine processes and governance structures for the following:

- Creating and maintaining a CSTE list of nationally notifiable diseases.
- Working with informaticians and public health specialists to implement a knowledge base for notifiable conditions that can make available in real-time domain knowledge about notifiable conditions, which includes documenting which conditions are reportable in each reporting jurisdiction.
- Developing standardized reporting definitions, criteria, core and disease-specific data elements, and exclusion criteria to address the American Health Information Community (AHIC) recommendations to facilitate automated case reporting from the healthcare sector to local and state public health.
- Expanding the list of nationally notifiable infectious diseases to include non-infectious diseases, as necessary and appropriate.

CDC and CSTE share a long history of collaboration on important public health issues. We look forward to continuing our work with you to implement AHIC recommendations and in support of the public health surveillance for nationally notifiable diseases.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Solomon, M.D.
Director
Coordinating Center for Health
Information and Service