



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health • Epidemiology Section
Section Office**

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
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Jeffrey P. Engel, MD
State Health Director

July 8, 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: Local Health Directors
Public Health Nursing Directors

From: Megan Davies, M.D., State Epidemiologist
Epidemiology Section Chief

Re: Regional Communicable Disease Nurse Consultation
Technical Assistance and Training Program

The Communicable Disease Branch – Medical Consultation Unit announces a new service for local health departments effective July 2010. The **Technical Assistance and Training Program** is staffed by five nurses who function as regional consultants to local health department communicable disease staff.

The program intends to (1) promote best practices for communicable disease programs, (2) enhance web-based resources and training opportunities, (3) respond to surveillance data needs at the local health department, and (4) assist with service integration to better serve the community.

The new program is funded entirely with existing resources and represents an excellent opportunity to directly support local CD staff in identifying, preventing, and responding to communicable disease threats. The nurse consultants intend to increase the opportunity for training and participating in locally driven quality improvement activities.

Please review the attached documents that include a map showing CD Nurse Consultant assignments by region and a short presentation about the program. An earlier version of this presentation and map were discussed recently at the NC Association of Local Health Director's Epi-Liaison and Preparedness Committees.

Key Points: CD Branch Technical Assistance and Training Program

1. During regular work hours, contact either the Regional CD Nurse Consultant or the CD Branch on-call epidemiologist for assistance with disease investigation/reporting/control measures, etc.
2. State epidemiologists are available 24/7 to help with urgent communicable disease issues. Use the 24/7 line to page the on-call epidemiologist (919) 733-3419.
3. Changes to the Agreement Addenda for 2011-2012 will result in less monitoring, but more assistance with new staff orientation, training, and quality improvement activities.
4. Tuberculosis, Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, Rabies, Veterinary Public Health, and Rabies calls/requests for assistance should still go directly to those programs.



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5. HIV, AIDS, and Syphilis calls/requests for assistance related to **clinical** services/treatment guidelines should go to the Regional CD Nurse Consultant.
6. HIV, AIDS, and Syphilis calls/requests for assistance related to **contact investigation** should go to the Regional Disease Investigation Specialist.
7. Physician back up is available to the Regional CD Nurse Consultants by Dr. Jean-Marie Maillard, Dr. Zack Moore, Dr. Greg Smith, Dr. Peter Leone, and Dr. Jason Stout.

Your patience is appreciated as we work to incorporate this new service to local health departments. Please contact Kathy Dail (kathy.dail@dhhs.nc.gov /919-715-7396) or any of the Regional CD Nurse Consultants for more information.