



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PASSED:

BOARD OF HEALTH: 8/11/16  
LAW DEPARTMENT 8/19/16  
RECORDS DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_

**REGULATION RELATING TO NATIONAL  
HEALTHCARE SAFETY NETWORK ACCESS**

**WHEREAS**, Section 6-201 of the Philadelphia Health Code authorizes the Board of Health to establish lists of reportable diseases and conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 6-202 of the Health Code requires health care providers and laboratories identifying such reportable diseases and conditions, designated by the Board, to report the occurrence of such diseases and conditions to the Department of Public Health; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 6-202 of the Health Code requires health care providers and facilities to render information to the Department to promote the health of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Healthcare Safety Network is the nation’s most widely used healthcare-associated infection tracking system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board recognizes the need to ensure that timely and accurate information on hospital-acquired infections is required by the Department to assist in prevention of facility-based infectious diseases and outbreaks;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, The Board of Health hereby adopts the *Regulation Relating to National Healthcare Safety Network Access*, as follows:

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**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**REGULATION RELATING TO NATIONAL HEALTHCARE  
SAFETY NETWORK ACCESS**

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**AUTHORITY**

**The Philadelphia Code  
Title 6 – Health Code**

**Section 6-201 Listing of Diseases**

- (1) The Board may by regulation establish separate lists of communicable, reportable and quarantinable diseases, which lists shall include all diseases so designated by the Board and shall form the basis for the controls and requirements hereinafter established for communicable, reportable or quarantinable diseases.

**Section 6-202 Responsibilities of Physicians, Osteopaths, Veterinarians, and Other Persons**

- (1) Any physician, osteopath or veterinarian who treats any person or any animal having any reportable disease shall forthwith report the existence of such disease to the department in writing or in such form and manner as the Board may by regulation prescribe.
- (2) Any physician, osteopath or veterinarian who treats any person or any animal for a communicable disease in a communicable stage shall inform such person treated or the owner of such animal treated and any other appropriate person of the nature and communicability of such disease and the need for treatment and the requirements of isolation or quarantine in such manner as the Board may by regulation prescribe to insure proper notification and clear warning of the dangers thereof.
- (3) Every person shall render such information and reports to the Department as may be required by this Title or by such regulations as the Board may prescribe to insure the proper control of communicable diseases or to aid in the formulation and review of municipal programs for the promotion of the health of the public. The regulations of the Board may limit the release of such information where such restrictions are necessary to encourage persons to render and report the information.

Pursuant to Section 5-301 (b) of the Home Rule Charter, and Section 6-201 and 6-202 of the Philadelphia Code, the following Regulation is promulgated by the Board of Health.

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## 1. DEFINITIONS

In this Regulation, the following definitions apply:

- (a) *Department*. The Department of Public Health of the City of Philadelphia, the Commissioner of the said Department, or any designated representative thereof.
- (b) *Health care facility*. A facility providing health services which participates in CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Participants include acute care hospitals, long-term acute care hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient dialysis centers, ambulatory surgery centers, and nursing homes, regardless of whether such health care facility is operated for profit, non-profit, or by an agency of the government
- (c) *National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)*. A secure Internet-based data collection system managed by the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## 2. NHSN ACCESS FOR DEPARTMENT

Health care facilities reporting to National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), including hospitals and hemodialysis facilities, shall authorize the Department to have access to all individual and facility-specific health care-associated infection data reported to NHSN for purposes of viewing and analyzing that data. The Department will use the data to support and guide public health prevention efforts.

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