

Summary Report of Prioritization Process and Findings:

- Initial workgroup convened August 2010
- In November 2010 a survey was developed to capture how local health jurisdictions (LHJs) were prioritizing CD Control activities. Twenty-four LHJs responded.
- Twenty-one responders indicated that they had developed a prioritization process (formal or informal) for CD control activities. Eighteen (85.7%) of those responding indicated that their prioritization was based on the urgency of the reported disease/condition as indicated in Title 17, Sections 2500; 2505. Several jurisdictions shared their current prioritization protocols.
- A review of literature was conducted to identify guiding principles for prioritization of CD Control activities. The core principles were included in the survey to determine how they were ranked by LHJs.
- Respondents provided information on the changes they made to try and mitigate the negative impact on program activities.
- Seventy-three (73%) of responding jurisdictions indicated budget and/or staffing reductions had impacted their ability to carry out CD Control activities. Impacts included: not investigating some diseases (e.g., campylobacter; giardia); reduction in field visits – increase in telephone follow-up and use of letters; referring patients to their own health care provider (e.g., post-exposure prophylaxis).
- A review of the initial survey findings indicated a need for a disease specific survey. Some respondents, ranked diseases as a group (e.g., Category A agents) instead of individual diseases.
- A disease specific survey was developed and distributed on October 2011.
- The LHJs assessment of the public health significance and response time for the identified diseases were documented through the survey. Findings from the survey are reflected in the CD Prioritization Survey Report.
- Sara Cody shared the CD priority matrix that she developed for Santa Clara.
- A prioritization matrix template for communicable disease follow-up was adapted from the Santa Clara document.
- February 10, 2012 – Prioritization matrix was distributed to the Executive Committee.
- March 2012 – Prioritization matrix will be distributed to CD Controllers.
- June 2012 – Report to be presented to CCLHO CD Committee.

Acknowledgement:

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- Thanks to jurisdictions participating on conference calls and to those who completed the survey.
- Thanks to Sara Cody, Santa Clara County Public Health for sharing the prioritization matrix she developed for her jurisdiction.

Next Steps:

- Provide report to CCLHO CD Committee.
- Conduct six month follow-up to evaluate effectiveness of the matrix in assisting LHJs to prioritize CD Control activities.
- Assess need to address how CD investigations can be streamlined.