

California Department of Public Health  
Center for Infectious Diseases  
Division of Communicable Disease Control  
Surveillance and Statistics Section  
MS 7306, P.O. Box 997377  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

## CDC NORS-WATERBORNE DISEASE OUTBREAK REPORT FORM

### Water Intended for Drinking (Drinking Water)

<p><b>Local ID Number:</b> _____</p> <p><i>Please use the same ID Number on preliminary and final reports to allow linkage to the same outbreak.</i></p> <p><b>Report Status (check one)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary    <input type="checkbox"/> Final</p>
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This report form should only be used to report waterborne disease outbreaks associated with water that was intended for drinking. To report outbreaks associated with other types of water, please go to <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/pubsforms/forms/Pages/CD-Report-Forms.aspx#outbreak> and complete the outbreak form for one of the other types of water:

- Recreational Water – Treated
- Recreational Water – Untreated
- Water Not Intended for Drinking or Water of Unknown Intent

Please submit the completed report form to the Surveillance & Statistics Section by mail through your communicable disease reporting staff. Jurisdictions participating in CalREDIE should enter outbreak information directly into the CalREDIE forms.

*If you have any questions, please contact IDB-SSS at [IDB-SSS@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:IDB-SSS@cdph.ca.gov).*

*Note: This form includes only the pages from the complete NORS Waterborne Outbreak Report form that apply to outbreaks associated with water intended for drinking; therefore pages 5 to 8 and 13 to 14 were omitted.*



# National Outbreak Reporting System

## Waterborne Disease Transmission



This form is used to report waterborne disease outbreak investigations. This form has 6 parts, indicated by tabs at the top of each page. Part 1 asks for the minimum or basic information about the outbreak investigation. Part 2 asks for epidemiological data and clinical specimen test results. Parts 3, 4, 5 and 6 collect information about types of water exposure (treated recreational water, untreated recreational water, drinking water, and water not intended for drinking/unknown intent). Only 1 of these 4 water exposure parts should be completed for an outbreak investigation report.

**CDC USE ONLY**

CDC Report ID

State Report ID

Form Approved  
OMB No. 0920-0004

### General Section

#### Primary Mode of Transmission (check one)

Food (Complete CDC 52.13)

Person-to-person (Complete CDC 52.13)

Water (Complete tabs for General, Water-General and type of water exposure)

Environmental contamination other than food/water (Complete CDC 52.13)

Animal contact (Complete CDC 52.13)

Indeterminate/Other/Unknown (Complete CDC 52.13)

#### Investigation Methods (check all that apply)

- Interviews only of ill persons
- Case-control study
- Cohort study
- Food preparation review
- Water system assessment: Drinking water
- Water system assessment: Nonpotable water

- Treated or untreated recreational water venue assessment
- Investigation at factory/production/treatment plant
- Investigation at original source (e.g., farm, water source, etc.)
- Food product or bottled water traceback
- Environment/food/water sample testing
- Other

#### Comments

#### Dates (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date first case became ill (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Date last case became ill \_\_\_\_\_

Date of initial exposure \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last exposure \_\_\_\_\_

Date of report to CDC (other than this form) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of notification to State/Territory or Local/Tribal Health Authorities \_\_\_\_\_

#### Geographic Location

Reporting state: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exposure occurred in multiple states  
 Exposure occurred in a single state but cases resided in multiple states  
 Other states: \_\_\_\_\_

Reporting county: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exposure occurred in multiple counties in reporting state  
 Exposure occurred in a single county but cases resided in multiple counties in reporting state  
 Other counties: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town/Place of exposure: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Do not include proprietary or private facility names*

#### Primary Cases

Number of Primary Cases		Sex (estimated percent of the primary cases)				
# Lab-confirmed cases		Male		%		
# Probable cases		Female		%		
# Estimated total primary cases						
	# Cases	Total # of cases for whom info is available	Approximate percent of primary cases in each age group			
# Died			<1 year	%	20-49 years	%
# Hospitalized			1-4 years	%	50-74 years	%
# Visited Emergency Room			5-9 years	%	≥ 75 years	%
# Visited health care provider (excluding ER visits)			10-19 years	%	Unknown	%

**Incubation Period, Duration of Illness, Signs or Symptoms for Primary Cases only**

Incubation Period <i>(select appropriate units)</i>			Duration of Illness <i>(among recovered cases-select appropriate units)</i>		
Shortest		Min, Hours, Days	Shortest		Min, Hours, Days
Median		Min, Hours, Days	Median		Min, Hours, Days
Longest		Min, Hours, Days	Longest		Min, Hours, Days
Total # of cases for whom info is available			Total # of cases for whom info is available		
Unknown incubation period			Unknown duration of illness		

**Signs or Symptoms**

Feature	# Cases with signs or symptoms	Total # cases for whom info available
Vomiting		
Diarrhea		
Bloody stools		
Fever		
Abdominal cramps		
HUS		
Asymptomatic		

**Secondary Cases**

Mode of Secondary Transmission <i>(check one)</i>	Number of Secondary Cases	
Food Water Animal contact Person-to-person Environmental contamination other than food/water Indeterminate/Other/Unknown	# Lab-confirmed secondary cases	
	# Probable secondary cases	
	Estimated total secondary ill	
	Total # of cases (Primary + Secondary)	

**Environmental Health Specialists Network *(if applicable)***

EHS-Net Evaluation ID: 1.) \_\_\_\_\_ 2.) \_\_\_\_\_ 3.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Traceback *(for food and bottled water only, not public water)***

Please check if traceback conducted

Source name <i>(If publicly available)</i>	Source type <i>(e.g. poultry farm, tomato processing plant, bottled water factory)</i>	Location of source		Comments
		State	Country	

**Recall**

Please check if any food or bottled water product was recalled

Type of item recalled:

Comments:

**Reporting Agency**

Agency name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone no.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax no.: \_\_\_\_\_

**Remarks** *Briefly describe important aspects of the outbreak not covered above. Please indicate if any adverse outcomes occurred in special populations (e.g., pregnant women, immunocompromised persons)*



**Clinical Specimens - Laboratory Results** (refer to the laboratory findings from the outbreak investigation)

1. Were clinical diagnostic specimens taken from persons?    Yes    No (go to next tab)    Unknown (go to next tab)

If **Yes**, from how many persons were specimens taken? \_\_\_\_\_

Specimen Type*	Specimen Subtype**	Tested for § (list all that apply)

\* Specimen Type: 1- Autopsy Specimen (specify subtype), 2-Biopsy (specify), 3-Blood, 4-Bronchial Alveolar Lavage (BAL), 5-Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF), 6-Conjunctiva/Eye Swab, 7-Ear Swab, 8-Endotracheal Aspirate, 9-Saliva, 10-Serum, 11-Skin Swab, 12-Sputum, 13-Stool, 14-Urine, 15-Vomit, 16-Wound Swab, 17-Unknown

\*\* Specimen Subtype: 1-Bladder, 2-Brain, 3-Dura, 4-Hair, 5-Intestine, 6-Kidney, 7-Liver, 8-Lung, 9-Nails, 10-Skin, 11-Stomach, 12-Wound, 13-Other, 14-Unknown

§ Tested for: 1-Bacteria, 2-Chemicals/Toxins, 3-Fungi, 4-Parasites, 5-Viruses

Report the confirmed and/or suspected etiological agent(s) in the table below..

Clinical Specimen Row Number	Genus/ Chemical/ Toxin	Species	Serotype/ Serogroup/ Serovar	Genotype/ Subtype
1				
2				
3				
4				

Clinical Specimen Row Number	Confirmed as Etiology ?	Concentration (numerical value)	Unit	Specimen Type *	Specimen Subtype **
1	Yes				
2	Yes				
3	Yes				
4	Yes				

Clinical Specimen Row Number	Test Type §	Total # People Tested	Total # People Positive
1			
2			
3			
4			

\* Specimen Type: 1- Autopsy Specimen (specify subtype), 2-Biopsy (specify), 3-Blood, 4-Bronchial Alveolar Lavage (BAL), 5-Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF), 6-Conjunctiva/Eye Swab, 7-Ear Swab, 8-Endotracheal Aspirate, 9-Saliva, 10-Serum, 11-Skin Swab, 12-Sputum, 13-Stool, 14-Urine, 15-Vomit, 16-Wound Swab, 17-Unknown

\*\* Specimen Subtype: 1-Bladder, 2-Brain, 3-Dura, 4-Hair, 5-Intestine, 6-Kidney, 7-Liver, 8-Lung, 9-Nails, 10-Skin, 11-Stomach, 12-Wound, 13-Other, 14-Unknown

§ Test Type: 1-Culture, 2-DNA or RNA Amplification/Detection (e.g., PCR, RT-PCR), 3-Microscopy (e.g., fluorescent, EM), 4-Serological/Immunological Test (e.g., EIA, ELISA), 5-Phage Typing, 6-Chemical Testing, 7-Tissue Culture Infectivity Assay

**Isolates**

State Lab Isolate ID	Specimen Profile 1 (e.g., the PFGE, MLVA, or genotype sequence)	Specimen Profile 2 (e.g., the PFGE, MLVA, or genotyping method used)

**Drinking Water Vehicle Description**

**Drinking Water Vehicle Description**

Water Type* <i>(e.g., commercially-bottled water, community water system, individual water system)</i>	Public Water System EPA ID Number**	Water Source <i>(select ground water, surface water or unknown)</i>	Water Source Description <i>(e.g., spring; well; lake)</i>	Setting of Exposure <i>(e.g., airport, mobile home park)</i>	USUAL Water Treatment Provided <i>(e.g., no treatment, disinfection, home filtration)</i>	Water Treatment Subtype <i>(disinfection or filtration: e.g., boiling; chlorine; rapid sand filter; reverse osmosis)</i>

\*Water system definitions: Community and noncommunity water systems are public water systems that have ≥ 15 service connections or serve an average of ≥ 25 residents for ≥ 60 days/year. A community water system serves year-round residents of a community, subdivision, or mobile home park. A noncommunity water system serves an institution, industry, camp, park, hotel, or business and can be nontransient or transient. Nontransient systems serve ≥ 25 of the same persons for > 6 months of the year but not year-round (e.g., factories and schools), whereas transient systems provide water to places in which persons do not remain for long periods (e.g., restaurants, highway rest stations, and parks). Individual water systems are small systems not owned or operated by a water utility that have < 15 connections or serve < 25 persons.

\*\* Number used for EPA reporting that uniquely identifies the water system within a specific state. The water system ID number can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo/index.html> by first selecting a state and then selecting a county.

**Drinking Water Quality**

Did the drinking water system have any monitoring violations in the 1 month prior to the outbreak?

Yes No Unknown Not applicable

If Yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Did the drinking water system have any maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations in the 1 month prior to the outbreak?

Yes No Unknown Not applicable

If Yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Did the drinking water system have any violations in the 12 months prior to the outbreak?\*\*\*

Yes No Unknown Not applicable

If Yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Sources of information about past violations can be obtained from utility records, consumer confidence reports (water quality reports), or violation records from state or local health departments

**Laboratory Section - Drinking Water**

Was drinking water tested? Yes (specify in table below) No Unknown

Results	1	2	3	4	5
Sample					
Source of Sample					
Additional Description <i>(e.g., kitchen faucet, well, reservoir)</i>					
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)					
Volume Tested	Number				
	Unit				
Temperature	Number				
	Unit				
Residual/Free Disinfectant Level <i>(if total and combined disinfectant levels given, total - combined = free)</i>	Number				
	Unit				
pH					
Turbidity (NTU)					

**Water Quality Indicator**

Sample Number	Type (e.g., fecal coliforms)	Concentration (numerical value)	Unit

**Microbiology or Chemical/Toxin Analysis (refer to the laboratory findings from the outbreak investigation)**

Sample Number	Genus/ Chemical/ Toxin	Species	Serotype/ Serogroup/ Serovar	Genotype/ Subtype	PFGE Pattern

Sample Number	Test Results Positive?	Concentration (numerical value)	Unit	Test Type*	Test Method (reference: National Environmental Methods Index: <a href="http://www.nemi.gov">http://www.nemi.gov</a> )
	Yes				
	Yes				
	Yes				

\* Test Type: 1-Culture, 2-DNA or RNA Amplification/Detection (e.g., PCR, RT-PCR), 3-Microscopy (e.g., fluorescent, EM), 4-Serological/Immunological Test (e.g., EIA, ELISA), 5-Phage Typing, 6-Chemical Testing, 7-Tissue Culture Infectivity Assay

**Factors Contributing to Drinking Water Contamination and/or Increased Exposure to Contaminated Drinking Water**

Did a problem with the source water (i.e., ground water or surface water) contribute to the disease or outbreak?  
 Yes (specify in table below)      No      Unknown

Source Water Factors (check all that apply)**	Documented/ Observed***	Suspected***
Sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) ****	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combined sewer overflow (CSO) ****	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Malfunctioning on-site wastewater treatment system **** ≠	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sewage treatment plant malfunction ***	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sewer line break ***	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poor siting/design of on-site wastewater treatment system **** ≠	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nearby biosolid/land application site (e.g., human or animal waste application)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination from agricultural chemical application (e.g., fertilizer, pesticides)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination from chemical pollution not related to agricultural application	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination by a chemical that the current treatment methods were not designed to remove	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic animal contamination (e.g., livestock, concentrated feeding operations, pets)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife contamination - Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife contamination - Mammals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife contamination - Fish kill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flooding/heavy rains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Algal bloom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal variation in water quality (e.g., lake/reservoir turnover events, resort community with seasonal loading)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low water table (e.g., drought, over-pumping)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground water under direct influence of surface water (e.g., shallow well)≠ ≠	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination through limestone or fissured rock (e.g., karst)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contaminated recharge water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of an alternate source of water by a water utility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixing of raw water from different sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improper construction or location of a well or spring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water system intake failure (e.g., cracked well casing, cracked intake pipe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intentional contamination (explain in remarks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

\*\* Only check off what was found during investigation.

\*\*\* "Documented/Observed" refers to information gathered through document reviews, direct observations, and/or interviews. "Suspected" refers to factors that probably occurred but for which no documentation (as defined previously) is available.

\*\*\*\* The release of sewage does not have to occur on the property in which persons have become ill. The sewage release may have occurred at a distant site but still affected the property in question.

≠ "On-site wastewater treatment system" refers to a system designed to treat and dispose of wastewater at the point of generation, generally on the property where the wastewater is generated (e.g., septic systems or other advanced on-site systems). However, contamination that originates from these systems can still occur off the property where treatment and disposal takes place due to migration of contaminants from malfunctioning systems or poor siting and design.

≠ ≠ Any water beneath the surface of the ground with substantial occurrence of insects or other macroorganisms, algae, or large-diameter pathogens (e.g., *Giardia intestinalis* or *Cryptosporidium*), or substantial and relatively rapid shifts in water characteristics (e.g., turbidity, temperature, conductivity, or pH) that closely correlate with climatologic or surface water conditions. Direct influence must be determined for individual sources in accordance with criteria established by the state.

**Factors Contributing to Drinking Water Contamination and/or Increased Exposure to Contaminated Drinking Water**

Did a problem with the water treatment prior to entry into a house or building contribute to the disease or outbreak?

Yes (specify in table below)      No      Unknown

Treatment Factors (check all that apply)*	Documented/ Observed**	Suspected**
Change in treatment process (explain in remarks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No disinfection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Temporary interruption of disinfection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chronically inadequate disinfection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No filtration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inadequate filtration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deficiencies in other treatment processes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corrosion in or leaching from pipes or storage tanks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pipe/component failure or break (e.g., pipes, tanks, valves)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination during construction or repair of pipes/components	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction or repair of pipes/components without evidence of contamination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operator error	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Did a problem with the distribution system contribute to the disease or outbreak?      Yes (specify in table below)      No      Unknown

(NOTE: For a community water system, the distribution system refers to the pipes and storage infrastructure under the jurisdiction of the water utility prior to the water meter (or property line if the system is not metered). For noncommunity and nonpublic water systems, the distribution system refers to the pipes and storage infrastructure prior to entry into a building or house)

Distribution and Storage Factors (check all that apply)*	Documented/ Observed**	Suspected**
Cross-connection of potable and nonpotable water pipes resulting in backflow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low pressure or change in water pressure in the distribution system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change in water flow direction in the distribution system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixing of treated water from different sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pipe/component failure or break (e.g., pipes, tanks, valves)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corrosion in or leaching from pipes or storage tanks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination of mains during construction or repair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction or repair of mains without evidence of contamination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled flushing of the distribution system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination of storage facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aging water distribution components (e.g., pipes, tanks, valves)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water temperature ≥30°C (≥86°F)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intentional contamination (explain in remarks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Did a problem occur after the water meter or outside the jurisdiction of a water utility that contributed to the disease or outbreak? (e.g., in a service line leading to a house/building, in the plumbing inside a house/building, during shipping/hauling, during storage other than in the distribution system, at the point of use, involving commercially-bottled water)

Yes (specify in table below)      No      Unknown

Factors Not Under the Jurisdiction of a Water Utility or Factors at the Point of Use (check all that apply)*	Documented/ Observed**	Suspected**
<i>Legionella</i> species in water system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross-connection of potable and nonpotable water pipes resulting in backflow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of backflow prevention in plumbing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low pressure or change in water pressure in the plumbing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change in water flow direction in the plumbing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corrosion in or leaching from pipes or storage tanks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pipe/component failure or break (e.g., pipes, tanks, valves)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aging plumbing components (e.g., pipes, tanks, valves)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination of plumbing during construction or repair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction or repair of plumbing without evidence of contamination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deficiency in building/home-specific water treatment after the water meter or property line	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deficiency or contamination of equipment/devices using or distributing water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination during commercial bottling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination during shipping, hauling, or storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination at point of use – Tap	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination at point of use – Hose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination at point of use – Commercially-bottled water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination at point of use – Container, bottle, or pitcher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contamination at point of use – Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water temperature ≥30°C (≥86°F)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intentional contamination (explain in remarks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

\* Only check off what was found during investigation.

\*\* "Documented/Observed" refers to information gathered through document reviews, direct observations, and/or interviews. "Suspected" refers to factors that probably occurred but for which no documentation (as defined previously) is available.



Remarks