



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H.
State Health Officer



March 5, 2018

Dear Health Care Providers/Notifiable Disease Reporters:

Subject: HIPAA and Notifiable Disease Reports and Investigations

The Alabama Department of Public Health (Department) is a public health authority as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). 45 *CFR* §164.501. The HIPAA Privacy Rule permits covered entities to disclose protected health information, without authorization from the individual, to public health authorities who are legally authorized to receive such reports for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability. 45 *CFR* §164.512(b).

Pursuant to the Alabama Notifiable Disease Act, each physician, dentist, nurse, medical examiner, hospital administrator, nursing home administrator, laboratory director, school principal, and day care center director is required to report cases or suspected cases of notifiable diseases and health conditions to the Department. See § 22-11A-2, *Ala. Code 1975* and Chapter 420-4-1, *Ala. Admin. Code*.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me by telephone at (334) 206-5209 or by email at pamela.kendrick@adph.state.al.us.

Sincerely,

Pam Kendrick
Privacy Officer