



**DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY  
OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE (J-3)**  
7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD, SUITE 5101  
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22042-5101

AFHSB-EA

11 December 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY  
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY  
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT STAFF SURGEON  
COAST GUARD DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND  
WORK LIFE

SUBJECT: Revised Armed Forces Reportable Medical Events Guidelines and Case Definitions

The Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch of the Public Health Division, Defense Health Agency, maintains and periodically updates the Armed Forces Reportable Medical Events Guidelines and Case Definitions (RME Guidelines) posted at <https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Combat-Support/Armed-Forces-Health-Surveillance-Branch/Reports-and-Publications>

Updates to the current RME Guidelines will take effect on 1 January 2020. The following diseases have been updated: Anthrax, E. coli, Shiga Toxin Producing, Hepatitis A, Norovirus, Salmonellosis, Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis, Trypanosomiasis, Tuberculosis, and Varicella.

These guidelines are used by the Services both in garrison and deployed settings. The guidelines standardize reporting and tracking of diseases and other conditions of public health and military importance. Timely reporting permits earlier recognition of public health events and interventions to protect the health of the force. Although the Services may choose to track additional conditions, additions and deletions to the RME Guidelines should be reported through the Public Health Collaboration and Coordination Working Group. In order to effect a smooth transition to the use of the new standards, please notify your respective medical commanders and medical staff, including public health and preventive medicine officers, of the revised guidelines.

The point of contact for any questions or actions related to the RME Guidelines is Dr. John F. Ambrose at (410) 436-7605 or by e-mail at [john.f.ambrose4.civ@mail.mil](mailto:john.f.ambrose4.civ@mail.mil).

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Mark A. Ireland  
Colonel, Medical Service Corps  
United States Army  
Chief, Public Health Division

cc:

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Health Readiness Policy and Oversight