



State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Public Health

June 7, 2010

For Immediate Release - Revised

**REPORTING OF OIL SPILL-RELATED ILLNESSES & INJURIES TO THE
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HOSPITALS**

The Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals/Office of Public Health/Section of Environmental Epidemiology & Toxicology (OPH/SEET) is tracking and evaluating ***all acute health effects related to the BP Oil Spill***. Potential complaints include exposure to odors/fumes, skin contact with contaminated water or objects, heat stress, in addition to injuries such as lacerations/fractures resulting from clean up or containment activities. ***All patients treated for an oil spill-related injury or illness should be reported to OPH/SEET as soon as possible.*** This information is critical to state agencies monitoring the health impact of the oil spill on Louisiana residents and workers.

What to report:

Patient name and contact information, name of reporting facility, name and telephone number of person reporting event, and brief description of health complaint and treatment. OPH/SEET will follow-up if more information is needed.

How to report:

- Reporting may be done by telephone or fax.

Telephone: 888-293-7020

Fax: 225-342-8117

- To request additional information about this surveillance program, please email oilspill.injuries@la.gov. ***Please do not use this email for reporting purposes.***
- For treatment information, call the Louisiana Poison Center: 1-800-222-1222. The Poison Center is staffed 24-hours a day and can provide medical management advice.
- For information on potential health risks related to the oil spill see http://emergency.cdc.gov/chemical/oil_spill_gm_2010.asp

HIPAA Compliance OPH/SEET is conducting surveillance in its capacity as a public health authority as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information; Final Rule (Privacy Rule) [45 CFR § 164.501]. Pursuant to 45 CFR § 164.512(b) of the Privacy Rule, healthcare providers may disclose, without individual authorization, protected health information to public health authorities "...authorized by law to collect or receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, including, but not limited to, the reporting of disease, injury, vital events such as birth or death, and the conduct of public health surveillance, public health investigations, and public health interventions..."