



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 11, 2015

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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House Bill 5907 – An Act Concerning Notification to Emergency Medical Services Organizations Regarding Patients Diagnosed with Infectious Diseases.

The Department of Public Health supports House Bill 5907 and would like to provide the following information. House Bill 5907 proposes to expand the protections afforded to emergency medical services personnel who may have been exposed to a potentially life-threatening infectious disease.

While any infectious disease can be potentially life-threatening, section 19a-904 of the general statutes identifies the following diseases to be of special importance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers: (A) infectious pulmonary tuberculosis, (B) hepatitis A, (C) hepatitis B, (D) hepatitis C, (E) human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), including acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), (F) diphtheria, (G) novel influenza A virus infections with pandemic potential, as defined by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (H) methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), (I) hemorrhagic fevers, (J) meningococcal disease, (K) plague, and (L) rabies.

As currently written, section 19a-904 of the general statutes states “any hospital that diagnoses a patient as having infectious pulmonary tuberculosis shall verbally notify the designated officer of the emergency services organization that attended, treated, assisted, handled or transported such patient no later than forty-eight hours after making such a diagnosis, and shall make such notification in writing not later than seventy-two hours after such diagnosis. “

The Department recommends the following revision: “any hospital that diagnoses a patient as having an infectious disease as defined by section 19a-904 shall verbally notify the designated officer of the emergency services organization that attended, treated, assisted, handled or transported such patient no later than forty-eight hours after making such a diagnosis, and shall make such notification in writing not later than seventy-two hours after such diagnosis. “

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.