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COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY ■ DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
■ DISEASE CONTROL BRANCH

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Severe *Staphylococcus aureus* Infections Now Reportable by Healthcare Providers

Effective February 13, 2008, a severe *Staphylococcus aureus* infection in a previously healthy person resulting in death or admission to an intensive care unit is immediately reportable from healthcare providers to local health departments. A previously healthy person is defined as one who has not been hospitalized or had surgery, dialysis, or residency in a long-term care facility in the past year, and did not have an indwelling catheter or percutaneous medical device at the time of culture. Infection with either methicillin-sensitive or methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MSSA or MRSA) is reportable if the patient fits the case definition. For now, a case of toxic shock syndrome due to *S. aureus* should continue to be reported under toxic shock syndrome and not under this new case category.

Reports should be called in to Disease Control at (951) 358-5107. A Confidential Morbidity Report is still needed and should be faxed to Disease Control at (951) 358-5102. The Confidential Morbidity Report is available at: www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org/cmr.pdf.

Please note that Disease Control will be responsible for completing the case report forms. Infection Control practitioners may be contacted for assistance, if additional information is needed.

Please contact the Communicable Disease Program at (951) 358-5107 if you have questions on whether a case should be reported.

Visit our website at: www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org for additional information on methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

California Department of Public Health information on MRSA and links to other sources are provided at:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/MRSA.aspx>