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Event reporting by clinicians

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Clinicians are uniquely positioned to identify events of potential public health significance and are expected to report unusual events of public health significance, which may be:

- Any outbreak of disease
- Any uncommon illness of potential public health significance
- Any infectious or infectious-like syndrome considered unusual by the clinician, based on:
 - **Frequency**
 - e.g., a sudden, unexplained, significant increase in the number of patients, especially when it occurs outside the normal season
 - **Circumstances of occurrence**
 - e.g., many patients coming from the same location or participating in similar activities
 - **Clinical presentation**
 - e.g., a patient's health rapidly deteriorating out of proportion to the presenting symptoms and diagnosis
 - **Severity**
 - e.g., a number of patients failing to respond to treatments

Examples of public health event reporting from clinicians in Europe:

"A hospital clinician saw 3 cases of cutaneous lesions, leading to hospitalization. This was reported to the district health authority, which started an investigation. A total of 40 cases of cow pox were identified all linked to domestic rats, imported from a neighbouring European country.

"A general practitioner reported a cluster of respiratory illness of unknown cause to the public health authorities. Through investigation, including specific diagnostic procedures, *Coxiella burnetii* (Q-fever) was identified."

Contact Information:

Contact the Public Health Authority
24 hours a day, 7 days a week at:

Phone: **123-456-7890**

Email: report@report.com

When in doubt, report!

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Ministry of Health

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