

O.C.G.A. § 31-12-2

GEORGIA CODE
Copyright 2012 by The State of Georgia
All rights reserved.

*** Current Through the 2013 Regular Session ***

TITLE 31. HEALTH
CHAPTER 12. CONTROL OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS, PREVENTABLE DISEASES,
AND METABOLIC DISORDERS

O.C.G.A. § 31-12-2 (2012)

§ 31-12-2. Reporting disease; confidentiality; reporting required of pharmacists; immunity from liability as to information supplied; notification of potential bioterrorism

(a) The department is empowered to declare certain diseases, injuries, and conditions to be diseases requiring notice and to require the reporting thereof to the county board of health and the department in a manner and at such times as may be prescribed. The department shall require that such data be supplied as are deemed necessary and appropriate for the prevention of certain diseases, injuries, and conditions as are determined by the department. All such reports and data shall be deemed confidential and shall not be open to inspection by the public; provided, however, the department may release such reports and data in statistical form or for valid research purposes.

(b) A health care provider, coroner, or medical examiner shall report to the department and the county board of health all known or presumptively diagnosed cases of persons harboring any illness or health condition that may be caused by bioterrorism, epidemic or pandemic disease, or novel and highly fatal infectious agents or toxins and that may pose a substantial risk of a public health emergency. Reportable illnesses and conditions include, without limitation, diseases caused by biological agents listed at 42 C.F.R. Part 72, app. A (2000) and any illnesses or conditions identified by the department as potential causes of a public health emergency.

(c) A pharmacist shall report to the department and the county board of health any unusual or increased prescription rates, unusual types of prescriptions, or unusual trends in pharmacy visits that may reasonably be believed to be caused by bioterrorism, epidemic or pandemic disease, or novel and highly fatal infectious agents or toxins and that may pose a substantial risk of a public health emergency.

(d) Any person, including but not limited to practitioners of the healing arts, submitting in good faith reports or data to the department or county boards of health in compliance with the provisions of this Code section shall not be liable for any civil damages therefor.

(e) Whenever the department learns of any case of an unusual illness, health condition, or death, or an unusual cluster of such events, or any other suspicious health related event that it reasonably believes has the potential to be caused by bioterrorism, it shall immediately notify the Department of Public Safety and other appropriate public safety authorities.

HISTORY: Code 1933, § 88-1202, enacted by Ga. L. 1964, p. 499, § 1; Ga. L. 1982, p. 1077, §§ 2, 4; Ga. L. 2002, p. 1386, § 6.