



STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Donald E. Williamson, MD
State Health Officer

September 30, 2013

Dear Health Care Providers/Notifiable Disease Reporters:

Subject: HIPAA and Notifiable Disease Reports and Investigations

Pursuant to the Alabama Notifiable Disease Act, each physician, dentist, nurse, medical examiner, hospital administrator, nursing home administrator, laboratory director, school principal, and day care center director is required to report cases or suspected cases of notifiable diseases and health conditions to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). *See* § 22-11A-2, *Ala. Code 1975*. ADPH is required to investigate reports of notifiable diseases or health conditions, a public health activity as described by 45 CFR §164.512(b), by Title 22, Chapter 10 and § 22-2-2(2), *Ala. Code 1975*.

ADPH is 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. The Federal HIPAA Privacy Rule provides that covered entities (notifiable disease reporters) may disclose, without individual authorization, protected health information (PHI) to public health authorities for certain public health activities. 45 *CFR* §164.512(b). Because ADPH is a public health authority authorized by law to collect or receive PHI for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, including, but not limited to, public health surveillance, investigations, and interventions, **PHI may be disclosed to ADPH without authorization of the individual.**

Any questions regarding HIPAA privacy regulations or policies may be directed to Samarria Dunson, HIPAA Privacy Officer, at (334) 206-5209 or Samarria.Dunson@adph.state.al.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samarria M. Dunson".

Samarria M. Dunson
Assistant General Counsel
Privacy Officer