



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention

8 August 2003

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Patrick J. McConnon, Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4015

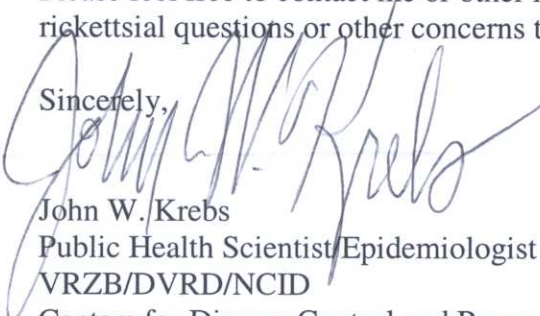
Dear Mr. McConnon:

On behalf of the Viral and Rickettsial Zoonoses Branch (VRZB), Division of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases (DVRD), National Center for Infectious Diseases (NCID), I wish to thank the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) for passage of the position statement 03-ID-08 entitled "Rocky Mountain spotted fever" (RMSF), at the annual CSTE conference, 26 June 2003 and thank you for providing the copy of the position statement as passed.

We (VRZB) are pleased that CSTE has accepted this updated revision of the case definition for RMSF and wish to express our gratitude to all persons who were responsible for its drafting, sponsorship, and passage. As stated in the introductory comments accompanying the definition, the updated definition recognizes newer RMSF diagnostic assays resulting from advances in laboratory technologies. In addition the structure of the updated definition closely parallels that of the definition for human ehrlichiosis passed by CTSE at an earlier meeting. These updated case definitions will provide for continued and more accurate identification and surveillance of these notifiable rickettsial diseases.

We (VRZB) appreciate these accomplishments and look forward to continued collaboration with CSTE. Please feel free to contact me or other members of the Epidemiology Section of VRZB regarding any rickettsial questions or other concerns that may currently exist or that may arise in the future.

Sincerely,


John W. Krebs
Public Health Scientist/Epidemiologist
VRZB/DVRD/NCID
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE MS G13
Atlanta, GA 30333

Cc:
James LeDuc
Herbert Thompson
Lauri Smithee
Jennifer McQuiston