



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

November 26, 2002

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

Pat
Dear Mr. McConnon:

Thank you for your letter forwarding the position statements, adopted by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), in 2002.

Enclosed is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) response to the CSTE Position Statement entitled "Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection," sent to the National Center for Infectious Diseases.

CDC looks forward to continued collaboration with CSTE regarding public health issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

James M. Hughes, M.D.
Director

National Center for Infectious Diseases

Enclosure

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CSTE POSITION STATEMENT: #02-ID-03

TITLE: Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection

Statement of desired action(s) to be taken:

CSTE Recommends:

- (1) Approve case definition for chronic hepatitis B virus infection.
- (2) Place confirmed cases of chronic hepatitis B virus infection under national surveillance through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS).
- (3) Allotment of additional resources critical to conducting hepatitis B surveillance and to supporting hepatitis B prevention and care initiatives.

CDC Comments:

CDC supports the position statement 02-ID-03, entitled, "Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection". This position statement proposes a surveillance case definition for chronic hepatitis B and endorses placing confirmed cases of chronic hepatitis B virus infection under national surveillance through NNDSS. CDC is in agreement with the proposed case definition and believes that national surveillance is critical as any chronically infected person is potentially infectious to household, sexual and needle-sharing contacts and vaccination should be provided to those contacts. CDC is working with state and local health departments to assist in the development of models for chronic hepatitis B virus infection surveillance. CDC recognizes that the allotment of additional resources would benefit hepatitis B surveillance and prevention initiatives. As additional resources become available, consideration can be given for these important activities.