



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

Regulatory Guidance

Reportable Diseases

The [*Health Protection and Promotion Act \(HPPA\)*](#) requires registrants to notify the [local medical officer of health](#) in their public health unit if they believe that the person that they are treating has, or may have, a disease, such as influenza, Lyme disease and mumps that must be reported. The local public health unit website contains a list of diseases of public health significance and the timeframe in which they must be reported. Depending on the disease some must be reported immediately, other can be reported the next day. For the purposes of this article, we will refer to the report as the Reportable Disease Report.

According to the [Reports](#) regulation (O. Reg. 569) made under the HPPA, a Reportable Disease Report must contain the following information about the person:

- name and address in full,
- date of birth in full,
- sex, and
- date of onset of symptoms.

The registrant is also required to provide any additional information regarding the reportable disease that the medical officer of health considers necessary.

The HPPA is a statute that sets out the mandatory duty to report reportable diseases which includes providing identifying information. As such registrants do not require the patient to first provide their consent to disclose their personal health information. The registrant may want to inform the patient of their obligation to report to the local medical officer of health.

The *HPPA* provides that a civil action, or other proceeding, cannot be commenced against a registrant if they made a Reportable Disease Report "in good faith." This means that as long as the registrant does their best and does not file a Reportable Disease Report with malice or ill intent, they will be statutorily protected.

If a registrant fails to make a Reportable Disease Report when it is required, they can be found guilty of a provincial offence. This could result in a fine of up to \$5,000 for every day, or part of a day, that the regulated health professional fails to comply. Further, it could also be considered an act of professional misconduct by the College.