

Appendix C: TDCJ Memo

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION
MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Health Administrators
Regional Nursing Directors
Regional Medical Directors

FROM: Mike Kelley M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Preventive Medicine

DATE: January 11, 2000

SUBJECT: Contacts from the Texas Department of Health

Please distribute this to the appropriate staff.

Some facilities may have been contacted by a representative of the Texas Department of Health (TDH) regarding contact investigation or partner notification for offenders with reportable communicable diseases. These are legitimate contacts and you should cooperate with them. Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code gives TDH broad authority to investigate and control communicable disease, and does not exclude correctional facilities.

Usually, these contacts will either "get acquainted" visits, so you will know with whom you are dealing in future contacts, or offers/requests to interview offenders who have been reported to have a communicable disease, in order to elicit contact information. TDH has a partner notification program that can be a valuable asset for making sure free world contacts of offenders are appropriately counseled and tested.

TDH representatives may also offer to provide staff training in contact elicitation if you are interested.

If you are contacted for information regarding reporting of cases or treatment history for syphilis, please refer the caller to their program staff in Austin. Although the law allows you to give that information directly to TDH, we have an agreement with TDH in Austin to provide that information on a central level from this office, since you are already reporting it to Preventive Medicine.

cc: All Wardens
TDH Bureau of HIV and STD Control
Nancy Hurt, R.N., Texas Tech Correctional Health Services
Owen Murray, D.O., Associate Medical Director, UTMB Correctional Managed Health Care