55 NJR 7(2) July 17, 2023 **Filed June 23, 2023**

ADOPTIONS SECTION

HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES BRANCH

DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Notice of Readoption

Reportable Occupational and Environmental Diseases, Injuries, and Poisonings

Readoption: N.J.A.C. 8:58

Authority: N.J.S.A. 26:1A-7.

Authorized By: Judith M. Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA, Commissioner, Department of Health, in consultation with the Public Health Council.

Effective Date: June 12, 2023.

New Expiration Date: June 12, 2030.

Take notice that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1, the rules at N.J.A.C. 8:58, Reportable Occupational and Environmental Diseases, Injuries, and Poisonings, were scheduled to expire on September 2, 2023.

N.J.A.C. 8:58, Reportable Occupational and Environmental Diseases, Injuries, and Poisonings, identifies reportable occupational and environmental diseases, injuries, and poisonings, and establishes procedures by which hospitals and health care providers are to report diagnoses thereof to the Department.

Subchapter 1 establishes general provisions applicable to hospitals and health care providers' reporting of these diagnoses to the Department of Health (Department). N.J.A.C. 8:58-1.1 establishes the purpose and scope of the chapter. N.J.A.C. 8:58-1.3

provides definitions of words and terms that the chapter uses. N.J.A.C. 8:58-1.4 establishes standards for hospital reporting of occupational and environmental diseases, injuries, and poisonings. N.J.A.C. 8:58-1.5 establishes standards for health care provider reporting of occupational and environmental diseases, injuries, and poisonings. N.J.A.C. 8:58-1.6 establishes the requirement that hospitals and/or health care providers are to provide additional information to the Department as necessary to conduct surveillance, perform research, and/or undertake other public health activities. N.J.A.C. 8:58-1.7 establishes standards governing the confidentiality of reports submitted to the Department pursuant to this chapter. N.J.A.C. 8:58-1.8 identifies the applicability of penalties for violations of the chapter pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:1A-10, inasmuch as the chapter is part of the State Sanitary Code pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:1A-7.

The Department anticipates developing a future rulemaking to revise and modernize the reporting requirements, as electronic case reporting by primary healthcare providers becomes more widespread and the Department is able to collect reportable disease conditions diagnoses and data in near real-time without the need for manual reporting. The Department aims to file this rulemaking with the Office of Administrative Law for processing in the ordinary course; however, this rulemaking will not be concluded prior to the expiration of existing N.J.A.C. 8:58. Therefore, the Commissioner of the Department, in consultation with the Public Health Council, has reviewed existing N.J.A.C. 8:58 and determined that the existing chapter remains necessary, proper, reasonable, efficient, understandable, and responsive for the purposes for which it was originally promulgated, as amended and supplemented over time, and should be readopted. Therefore, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1.c(1), N.J.A.C. 8:58 is readopted and shall continue in effect for seven years.