



State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Public Health

May 9, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

The Office of Public Health (OPH) is an agency of the State of Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, and is conducting the activity described here in its capacity as a public health authority as defined by the Health Insurance and Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, Final Rule (Privacy Rule) [45 CFR §164.501]. Pursuant to 45 CFR §164.512(b)(1)(i) of the Privacy Rule, covered entities such as your organization may disclose protected health information, without individual authorization, to public health authorities "...authorized by law to collect or receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, including but not limited to the reporting of disease, injury, vital events such as birth or death, and the conduct of public health surveillance, public health investigations, and public health interventions...."

OPH is conducting collection of information on individuals who have reportable diseases, a public health activity as described in 45 CFR §164.512(b)(1)(i) and as authorized by Louisiana state law R.S. 40:5(10). Said law gives OPH and the State Health Officer exclusive jurisdiction, control, and authority over the reporting of communicable diseases. **It is required by law, under R.S. 40:4(A)(2), that this information be provided to and reported to OPH. Failure to provide this information to OPH is a violation of the Public Health Sanitary Code.** These statutes are the general source of OPH's authority in this area. The information being requested represents the minimum necessary to carry out the public health purposes of this project pursuant to 45 CFR §164.502(b) of the Privacy Rule.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Charles Daspit, the Department of Health and Hospitals Privacy Officer, at 225-342-3806.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Guidry, MD".

Jimmy Guidry, MD
State Health Officer/DHH Medical Director

cc: Charles Daspit, Deputy General Counsel, Bureau of Legal Services