Clinicians are uniquely positioned to identify events of potential public health significance and are expected to report unusual events of public health significance, which may be:

- Any outbreak of disease
- Any uncommon illness of potential public health significance
- Any infectious or infectious-like syndrome considered unusual by the clinician, based on:
  - **Frequency**
    - e.g., a sudden, unexplained, significant increase in the number of patients, especially when it occurs outside the normal season
  - **Circumstances of occurrence**
    - e.g., many patients coming from the same location or participating in similar activities
  - **Clinical presentation**
    - e.g., a patient’s health rapidly deteriorating out of proportion to the presenting symptoms and diagnosis
  - **Severity**
    - e.g., a number of patients failing to respond to treatments

Examples of public health event reporting from clinicians in Europe:

“A hospital clinician saw 3 cases of cutaneous lesions, leading to hospitalization. This was reported to the district health authority, which started an investigation. A total of 40 cases of cowpox were identified all linked to domestic rats, imported from a neighbouring European country.”

“A general practitioner reported a cluster of respiratory illness of unknown cause to the public health authorities. Through investigation, including specific diagnostic procedures, Coxiella burnetii (Q-fever) was identified.”

Contact Information:
Contact the Public Health Authority  
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When in doubt, report!