**Compliance Guide for New Regulations for Small Businesses**

* ***What does this regulation do?***

The purpose of this action is to amend COMAR 10.10.11 to require persons to notify local Health Officers immediately following incidents involving possible human exposure to biological agents (set forth in CFR Title 42, Part 73; Title 7, Part 331; and Title 9, Part 121).

The Department also proposes to revise and/or add definitions to COMAR 10.10.11 to clarify certain terms and procedures and update the methods and/or processes used for the exchange of BAR information with local jurisdictions and Emergency Management Agencies/Directors.

* ***Who is subject to the new regulation?***

A Health Officer of any affected jurisdiction.

* ***Why were the new regulations proposed?***

Currently, COMAR 10.10.11 does not require immediate notification to Health Officers (local health departments) of incidents involving possible human exposure to biological agents. As such, the Maryland Department of Health is concerned that the State may encounter a potential biological agent incident where individuals could be subject to exposure without being followed or monitored by local health departments. Consequently, the proposed action seeks to amend COMAR 10.10.11 to include local Health Officers as recipients of BAR information and reports concerning potential exposure to biological agents.

* ***When are the regulations effective?***

To be determined.

* ***Is funding available to implement new requirements established by the* *regulation?***

Funding is not required to implement the proposed amendments to COMAR 10.10.11.

* ***Are there other resources available for implementing the requirements of the regulation?***

Not applicable.

* ***Is there assistance available to help understand the requirements of the regulation?***

Yes, available assistance shall be offered through the Maryland Public Health Laboratory, Office of Laboratory Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Key Terms and Definitions

Not applicable.