



STATE OF MICHIGAN


DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI  
DIRECTOR

**Date:** May 10, 2005

**To:** Health Care Providers  
Other Interested Parties

**From:** Janet Olszewski, Director 

**Subject:** Authority to Conduct Michigan Lupus Epidemiology  
and Surveillance (MILES) Program

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The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is an agency of the state of Michigan and is conducting the activity described below in its capacity as a grantee from the Federal government, specifically the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and as a public health authority as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information; Final Rule (Privacy Rule) [45 CFR § 164.501]. MDCH has subcontracted the record obtaining and management portion of this grant to the Regents of the University of Michigan and its School of Medicine Department of Internal Medicine Division of Rheumatology. Pursuant to 45 CFR § 164.512(b) of the Privacy Rule, covered entities such as your organization may disclose, without individual authorization, protected health information 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 . . .”

MDCH and the University of Michigan are conducting the Michigan Lupus Epidemiology and Surveillance (MILES) Program, a public health activity as described by 45 CFR § 164.512(b), and is authorized by both relevant federal law and Michigan law [MCL 333.2631] as a medical research project with data to be furnished to MDCH for public health purposes. The information being requested represents the minimum necessary to carry out the public health purposes of this project pursuant to 45 CFR § 164.514(d) of the Privacy Rule. If you have general questions about the MILES Program, you can send an e-mail to [miles-project@med.umich.edu](mailto:miles-project@med.umich.edu) or call (800) 742-2300 and enter category 9560 when prompted. If you have questions or concerns about HIPAA or other privacy laws, please contact:

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