## Sample Patient Letter B – Disease Transmission Identified, Issued by Health Department

Dear Sir or Madam,

In DATE the HEALTH DEPARTMENT NAME began investigating reports of recent NAME OF INFECTION among several people who had undergone procedures at the MEDICAL CENTER NAME, located at ADDRESS. Through the investigation, we identified an unsafe practice, which may have exposed patients to the blood of other clinic patients.

This letter serves as notification that you have been identified in clinic records as a former patient of the clinic who was placed at risk for possible exposure to bloodborne pathogens. **As a precaution, and in order to take appropriate steps to protect your health, we recommend that you get blood tests for hepatitis C, hepatitis B, and HIV.** We are committed to providing you with support through every step of this process.

It is not possible to determine specifically which people were exposed, but **all patients who received injected medicine at the center** were placed at increased risk for exposure. As a result, we are notifying all people who received injected medications between DATE and DATE. Our investigation has identified that the infections were associated with the unsafe injection practices and **not** with the procedures themselves.

People infected with viruses such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) may not have symptoms for many years, so you may have been infected and not know it. Even though you may not feel ill or remember getting sick, you should get a blood test in order to make sure you are not infected. Although testing cannot determine where you were infected (at the clinic or at another location), knowing whether you are infected is important, so you can be treated if your test results are positive.

We recommend that you are tested at your own healthcare provider’s office, as he or she will be able to best advise you on what to do if your blood test reveals that you have been infected with hepatitis B, hepatitis C, or HIV. If you do not have a regular healthcare provider, a list of resources is available on the HEALTH DEPARTMENT NAME website at <http://www.website.com>. Wherever you choose to be tested, be sure to bring this letter with you and give it to your healthcare provider. Information for your provider is included at the end of this letter.

We understand that this may be an upsetting situation for you, and that you and your family may have additional questions or concerns about the information you have received. To help answer them, we have established a hotline at (555) 555-5555. The hotline will be available starting DATE. You may also obtain additional information on the HEALTH DEPARTMENT NAME website at <http://www.website.com>.

**NOTA:** Para obtener esta información en español llame al (555) 555-5555 o visite el sitio web <http://www.website.com>.

Sincerely,

NAME

**Chief Health Officer**