

School/Daycare/Camp Outbreak Guidance



Phone:(503) 846-3594 Fax:(503) 846-3644 Email: HHSPublicHealth_DCAP@washingtonty.gov

Contact Washington County Public Health (WCPH) when students or staff have:

- Case(s) or suspected outbreaks of reportable diseases
- Gastrointestinal illnesses (e.g., vomiting and/or diarrhea) associated with unusually high levels of absenteeism
 - At least 2 students or staff who live in separate households and are in the same classroom or cohort
 - An increase of GI illness spread throughout the school and is above what you would expect for the time of year
- Respiratory illnesses (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, or positive test results) associated with unusually high levels of absenteeism for three or more consecutive days
 - $\geq 20\%$ of cohort or classroom
 - $\geq 30\%$ across school
 - In a medically fragile class/cohort not yet meeting % threshold levels
- High fevers or bloody stools
- Hospitalization with severe, similar symptoms

Information to include in the initial report to WCPH:

- Total number of students and staff in your school, daycare or camp
- Total number of students, staff and food handlers (if GI related) who are:
 - Ill or absent
 - In the affected cohort(s) (e.g., class, grade, office, team, etc.)
- Type of symptoms and onset dates
 - Distinguish between gastroenteritis (i.e., nausea, vomiting, diarrhea) and respiratory (i.e., fever, cough, sneezing, sore throat) symptoms as early as possible
- Any lab/test-confirmed illnesses; hospitalizations; or deaths
- Baseline absentee rates (the expected number of staff and/or students usually absent)

Prevent other students and staff from becoming ill:

- Send anyone home who develops symptoms at school; advise ill individuals to:
 - K-12 follow [Oregon Department of Education \(ODE\) exclusion guidelines](#)
 - Childcare follow [Early Learning Division \(ELD\) exclusion guidelines](#)
 - Seek care and testing, as appropriate
- Increase hand washing with soap and water. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers frequently if soap and water are not available.
- Follow [cleaning and disinfection guidance](#) for your school

During an outbreak, regularly provide an updated line list and/or daily count of new illnesses/absenteeism:

- After the initial report, a line list and/or ongoing daily count of new illnesses/absenteeism is NOT required for COVID-19 and non-reportable respiratory outbreaks.
- Regularly provide a line list and/or daily count of new illnesses/absenteeism ONLY for person-to-person gastroenteritis and non-COVID-19 reportable disease outbreaks. WCPH requires information for the **first 10** ill students and staff, after which only a daily count of additional ill or absent students and staff is required.
- WCPH will provide disease-specific guidance, including cleaning and disinfection, preventing disease transmission, exclusions, testing, case definitions, education for staff and parents, recommendations for seeking medical care, notification of outbreak investigation closure, and other information as requested or needed.

ODE disease guidance: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/commdisease.pdf>

Childcare specific guidance: [ELD disease guidance](#)

School Outbreak Guidance

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Case(s) or suspected outbreaks of reportable diseases

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- ≥ 2 students or staff who live in separate households and are in the same classroom or cohort
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Respiratory illnesses (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, or positive test results) associated with unusually high levels of absenteeism for three or more consecutive days

- ≥20% of cohort or classroom
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High fevers or bloody stool

Hospitalization with severe, similar symptoms

Communicable Disease:
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Information to include in the initial report to WCPH:

- Total number of students and staff in your school
- Total number of students, staff, food handlers (if GI related) who are:
 - Ill or absent
 - In the affected cohort(s) (e.g., class, grade, office, team, etc.)
- Type of symptoms and onset dates
 - Distinguish between gastroenteritis and respiratory symptoms
- Any lab/test-confirmed illnesses; hospitalizations; or deaths
- Baseline absentee rates (the expected number of staff/students absent)

Prevent other students and staff from becoming ill:

- Send anyone home who develops symptoms at school; advise to:
 - Follow [Oregon Department of Education \(ODE\) exclusion guidelines](#)
 - Seek care and testing, as appropriate
- Increase handwashing with soap and water. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers frequently if soap and water are not available.
- Follow [cleaning and disinfection guidance](#) for your school

Did WCPH open an outbreak investigation?

No

Yes

Update WCPH with new cases or any changes

Follow WCPH guidance; Regularly share an updated line list and/or daily count of new illnesses with WCPH if warranted.