

October 2, 2023

HEALTH ADVISORY: K-12 School Outbreak Reporting Requirements

Dear K-12 School Colleagues,

As we begin the 2023-2024 academic school year, Benton County Communicable Diseases Program (CD) would like to share a health advisory related to K-12 School Outbreak Reporting Requirements. The advisory will focus on K-12 school respiratory (e.g., Covid, flu) and gastrointestinal (e.g., norovirus) outbreak guidance. Please review the guidance below:

K-12 Schools RESPIRATORY Outbreaks Guidance	
How to determine if a RESPIRATORY outbreak may be occurring?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the school level, $\geq 30\%$ with at least 10 students and staff absent. At the classroom level, $\geq 20\%$ with at least 3 students and staff absent. <p>NOTE: Schools do not need to report elevated absenteeism to LPHAs when there is a non-disease-related reason (e.g., day before or after a holiday or long weekend, students are participating in an out-of-school activity, etc.)</p>
When to notify your LPHA?	<p>Outbreak: Please notify Benton County Communicable Diseases (CD) when the threshold(s) has been met for 3 consecutive days, unless there has been a diagnosis of a reportable disease. See list.</p> <p>Reportable Disease: Immediately contact the LPHA if the school is notified that a student has been diagnosed with a reportable disease (e.g., measles) regardless of the current number of cases. See list.</p>
How to notify your LPHA of a suspected RESPIRATORY outbreak?	<p>Benton County Communicable Diseases (CD) reporting email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cdreporting@bentoncountyor.gov <p>Please contact CD via the above CD Reporting email first.</p> <p>Christina Camacho, COVID Investigator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> christina.camacho@bentoncountyor.gov 541-745-4889 <p>Jamie Rodriguez, CD Investigator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> jamie.rodriguez@bentoncountyor.gov 541-766-6344 <p>Gerald Dyer, Jr., CD Program Manager:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gerald.dyer@bentoncountyor.gov 541-766-6654 <p>NOTE: The best way to contact Benton County CD is via our team reporting email at: cdreporting@bentoncountyor.gov.</p>

K-12 Schools RESPIRATORY Outbreaks Guidance

<p>What initial information will the LPHA be requesting from the school(s)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptom profile. • Any known diagnoses that were reported to the school. • Dates of the elevated absenteeism. • Number of known student/staff cases. • Total number of staff and students in the school or classroom • A list of control measures the school has put in place. • Whether the outbreak is school-wide or contained to a specific classroom(s). (Please include the classroom number/name of the teacher, especially if more than one classroom is experiencing an increase in cases of illness.)
<p>Will the LPHA be requesting a case log?</p>	<p>No, unless an individual involved in the outbreak is diagnosed with or tests positive for a reportable disease such as <u>measles</u>, <u>mumps</u>, <u>pertussis</u>, etc. or the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requests that a log be completed.</p>
<p>How many students should specimens be requested from?</p>	<p>No specimens will be requested.</p> <p>NOTE: There is the possibility of an exception.</p>
<p>RESPIRATORY control measure recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide handwashing stations and hand sanitizer. • Enforce strict hand washing (supervised hand washing for younger students) • Consider restricting group activities. • Increase cleaning of high-touch areas. • Encourage masking of students and staff. • Isolate ill students until they can be sent home. • Especially during an outbreak, request that parents follow the ODE Illness Guidelines for sending their children back to school. • Notify students' families of the increase in cases of illness and to keep their children home if they develop symptoms.
<p>Determining a RESPIRATORY outbreak is over.</p>	<p>In collaboration with the LPHA, an outbreak can be declared over after 2 incubation periods for the pathogen have passed without the identification of any new cases.</p>

K-12 School GASTROINTESTINAL Outbreaks Guidance

<p>How to determine if a GASTROINTESTINAL outbreak may be occurring?</p>	<p>“Outbreak” refers, in general, to an unexpected number of similarly ill persons clustered by place and time.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: 20% of children (5) in a 25-person classroom with vomiting or diarrhea over a consecutive 3-day period would be more than expected and must be reported to the LPHA. Similarly, 20% of a school with vomiting or diarrhea over a consecutive 3-day period would be more than expected. (If in doubt, please consult Benton County Health Department.)</p>
<p>When to notify your Local Public Health Authority (LPHA - Benton County)?</p>	<p>Outbreak: As soon as the school/school district realizes that an outbreak may be occurring.</p> <p>Reportable Disease: Immediately contact the LPHA if the school is notified that a student has been diagnosed with a reportable disease regardless of the current number of cases. See list.</p> <p>NOTE: Although norovirus and hand, foot and mouth disease are not on the “Reportable Diseases List,” outbreaks of norovirus and hand, foot and mouth disease infections are reportable. If in doubt, please reach out to us at cdreporting@bentoncountyor.gov.</p>
<p>How to notify your LPHA of a suspected GASTROINTESTINAL outbreak?</p>	<p>Benton County Communicable Diseases (CD) reporting email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cdreporting@bentoncountyor.gov <p>Please contact CD via the above CD Reporting email first.</p> <p>Mary Shaughnessy, CD Registered Nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mary.shaughnessy@bentoncountyor.gov • 541-766-6255 <p>Jamie Rodriguez, CD Investigator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • jamie.rodriguez@bentoncountyor.gov • 541-766-6344 <p>Gerald Dyer, Jr., CD Program Manager:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gerald.dyer@bentoncountyor.gov • 541-766-6654 <p>NOTE: The best way to contact Benton County CD is via our team reporting email at: cdreporting@bentoncountyor.gov.</p>
<p>What initial information will the LPHA be requesting from the school(s)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptom profile. • Any known diagnoses that were reported to the school. • Onset dates. Initial onset and last onset to start. • Number of known student/staff cases. • Teacher contact information for the involved classrooms. • Total number of staff, students in the school or classroom. • If staff cases, where they work in the school, such as kitchen, office, classroom, etc. • A list of control measures the school has put in place. • Whether the outbreak is school-wide or contained to a specific classroom(s). (Please include the classroom number/name of the

K-12 School GASTROINTESTINAL Outbreaks Guidance	
	teacher, especially if more than one classroom is experiencing an increase in cases of illness.)
Will the LPHA be requesting a case log?	<p>Yes. Please complete the electronic case log and keep it as up-to-date as possible when cases are identified.</p> <p>The link and log-in information for the log will be emailed to the school contact once the outbreak has been opened with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).</p>
How many students should specimens be requested from?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHA requests 3-5 specimens. Benton County can coordinate stool collection with parents who give permission and consent. • A minimum of 2 (ideally 3) specimens are necessary for the state to perform the testing. • Because it takes at least 2 positives to confirm the microbial cause of a gastroenteritis outbreak, the Oregon Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) will not test 1 fecal specimen.
GASTROINTESTINAL control measure recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict sick students and staff from school until asymptomatic for 48 hours (2 days). • Consider restricting group activities. • Deep clean and disinfect bathrooms and frequently touched surfaces. • Provide handwashing stations. • Enforce strict hand washing (supervised hand washing for younger students) after using the restroom and before eating. • Limit visitors and post the Gastrointestinal Notice on all entrances to the facility. • Isolate ill students until they can be sent home. • Notify student’s families of the increase in cases of illness and to keep their children home if they develop symptoms. • Especially during an outbreak, request that parents follow the ODE illness guidelines for sending their children back to school. <p>NOTE: Please refer to the OHA Norovirus Outbreak Detection and Management Guide for Schools and Daycare Centers for more information.</p>
Determining a GASTROINTESTINAL outbreak is over.	<p>In collaboration with the LPHA, an outbreak can be declared over after the last case is symptom-free and 2 incubation periods have passed without the identification of any new cases.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: If norovirus is determined to be the cause, an outbreak can be declared over when no new cases have surfaced over a period of 4 days. Norovirus has an incubation period of 12-48 hours.</p>

REPORTABLE DISEASES

If the school is notified of a reportable disease, please forward student or staff’s information to the LPHA right away. It is likely that the LPHA will need to follow-up with the student’s family and/or staff. Benton County will inform the school if we become aware of any student who is restricted from attending school due to a communicable disease.

Please see the complete list of reportable diseases at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/diseasesconditions/communicabledisease/reportingcommunicabledisease/reportingguidelines/pages/index.aspx>

OREGON REPORTABLE DISEASE EXAMPLES		
Botulism	Listeriosis	Tularemia
Campylobacteriosis	Measles	Tuberculosis
Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriales infection (CRE)	Meningococcal Disease	Typhoid Fever
Cholera	Mpox	Varicella (Chicken Pox)
Cryptosporidiosis	Mumps	Vibrio and Grimontia hollisae
Diphtheria	Novel Influenza	Viral Hemorrhagic Fever
Ebola	Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	West Nile virus
E. coli	Plague	Yersinosis

Relevant Public Health Communicable Diseases Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs)

- [OAR 333-018-0000](#) (Reporting Responsibilities)
- [OAR 333-018-0015](#) (What and When to Report)
- [OAR 333-019-0000](#) (Investigation of Reportable Diseases)
- [OAR 333-019-0002](#) (Cooperation with Public Health Authorities)
- [OAR 333-019-0003](#) (Providing Information)
- [OAR 333-019-0010](#) (School, Child Care, and Worksite Restrictions)

The complete list of Oregon Public Health Chapter 333 OARs can be found at:

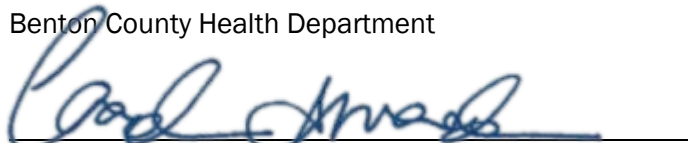
https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayChapterRules.action:JSESSIONID_OARD=QExL87RKxFa3jgigjihMKAEvVC9JPP5BI9gqGQGKbwF554Rhm3V8!48253970?selectedChapter=89


Thank You

We are grateful for your commitment to the health, safety and well-being of all Benton County students, families, and staff. We wish everyone the best of health and a great academic year.

Sincerely,

Benton County Health Department


 Carolina Amador, MD, MPH, Public Health Officer


 April Holland, Public Health Administrator