COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTING

Good communication among health care providers, childcare providers, school health staff, parents/guardians, and the public health can play a major role in preventing the spread of communicable diseases. It is important that parents/guardians let childcare providers and/or school health staff know whenever their children are diagnosed with a communicable disease. Childcare providers and school health staff should check with their local or state health department to find out if any special control measures are needed when informed of a child or staff member who has a communicable disease.

**Minnesota reporting rule**

Many diseases must be reported to the health department. According to Minnesota rule (MCAR 4605.7040 to 4605.7900), 77 specific diseases are reportable. Disease fact sheets included in Section 6 indicate which diseases are reportable, and reportable diseases are marked with an asterisk (*) in the table of contents.

Childcare providers and school health staff are required by the rule to report diseases to the health department. You do not need to worry about privacy issues or confidentiality when you make a report. Health care providers, laboratories, and others are also required to report. Some communicable diseases can be very serious, so it is important that you call right away, even if you think that someone else may have already made a report. Check the MDH website for any changes in the disease reporting rule: [www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/rule/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/rule/index.html)

**The following diseases are reportable in Minnesota:**

- Amebiasis (*Entamoeba histolytica/dispar*)
- Anaplasmosis
- Anthrax
- Arboviral disease
- Babesiosis
- Blastomycosis
- Botulism
- Brucellosis
- Campylobacteriosis
- Cat scratch disease
- Chancroid
- Chlamydia
- Cholera
- Cocciidioidomycosis
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Cyclosporiasis
- Dengue virus infection
- Diphtheria
- *Diphyllolothrium latum*
- Ehrlichiosis
- Encephalitis (caused by viral agents)
- *Enterobacter sakazakii*
- Enteric *E. coli* infection
- Giardiasis
- Gonorrhea
- *Haemophilus influenzae* disease (all invasive disease)
- Hantavirus infection
- Hemolytic uremic syndrome
- Hepatitis (all viral types)
- Histoplasmosis
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection
- Influenza (unusual case incidence, critical illness, or laboratory confirmed cases)
- Kawasaki disease
- *Kingella* spp.
- Legionellosis
- Leprosy (Hansen’s disease)
- Leptospirosis
- Listeriosis
- Lyme disease
- Malaria
- Measles
- Meningitis (caused by viral agents)
- Meningococcal disease (*Neisseria meningitidis*)
Unusual or increased case incidence of any suspect infectious illness is also reportable.

**Reports from parents/guardians**

Parents/guardians can also help to stop the spread of communicable diseases by telling the childcare provider or school health staff whenever their children are diagnosed with a communicable disease. Minnesota Department of Human Services Division of Licensing DHS Rule 3 (Childcare Centers) requires parents/guardians to notify the childcare of a reportable diseases within 24 hours. The childcare provider or school health staff then can watch other children for symptoms, notify all the other parents/guardians, and check with the health department to see if anything else needs to be done. The sooner everyone is notified, the faster control measures can be started and the spread of disease can be reduced or stopped.

**Reports from staff**

Childcare or school staff who are diagnosed with a reportable disease are responsible for letting the person in charge of the childcare facility or school health office know about the diagnosis.

**Reports to local/state health department**

Cases of reportable communicable diseases should be reported to your local health department or to the Minnesota Department of Health. When you call to report a disease, please have the following information ready:
- Name of disease
- Person’s name, date of birth, address, parent or guardian’s name and phone number(s)
- Date of onset of symptoms
- Symptoms the child is experiencing (e.g., cough, diarrhea, vomiting, rash, etc.)
- Health care provider’s name and phone number
- Immunization dates (depending on the illness)

The health department staff person taking the report will advise you if you need to take any specific control measures.

**Local and state health department disease prevention and control resources in Minnesota**

If you have a communicable disease question, please try to contact your local public health department first. If your local public health department is not listed or not available within a reasonable amount of time, contact the Minnesota Department of Health at 1-(877) 676-5414 or (651) 201-5414.

**Local Health Departments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anoka County</td>
<td>(763) 422-6970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington, Edina, Richfield</td>
<td>(952) 563-8900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carver County</td>
<td>(952) 361-1329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakota County</td>
<td>(952) 891-7500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodhue County</td>
<td>(651) 385-6100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hennepin County</td>
<td>(612) 543-5230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olmsted County</td>
<td>(507) 328-7500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Paul – Ramsey County</td>
<td>(651) 266-1277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott County</td>
<td>(952) 496-8584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington County</td>
<td>(651) 430-6655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright County</td>
<td>(763) 682-7469</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metro area</td>
<td>(651) 201-5414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toll free</td>
<td>(877) 676-5414</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For persons in Greater Minnesota, call the MDH District Office nearest to you. To determine which district you are located in, see [www.health.state.mn.us/about/locations/dist.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/about/locations/dist.html)

**District Office**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>St. Cloud</td>
<td>(320) 223-7300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>Mankato</td>
<td>(507) 344-2700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Central</td>
<td>Fergus Falls</td>
<td>(218) 332-5150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Rochester</td>
<td>(507) 206-2700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>(507) 476-4220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Bemidji</td>
<td>(218) 308-2100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at (612) 543-5230 or call your local health department.