

# 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/divs/idepc/dtopics/reportable/rule/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/reportable/rule/index.html)

### • The following diseases are reportable in Minnesota:

Amebiasis ( <i>Entamoeba histolytica/dispar</i> )	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, including Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
Anaplasmosis	Influenza (unusual case incidence, critical illness, or laboratory confirmed cases)
Anthrax	Kawasaki disease
Arboviral disease	<i>Kingella</i> spp.
Babesiosis	Legionellosis
Blastomycosis	Leprosy (Hansen's disease)
Botulism	Leptospirosis
Brucellosis	Listeriosis
Campylobacteriosis	Lyme disease
Cat scratch disease	Malaria
Chancroid	Measles
Chlamydia	Meningitis (caused by viral agents)
Cholera	Meningococcal disease ( <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> )
Coccidioidomycosis	Mumps
Cryptosporidiosis	Neonatal Sepsis
Cyclosporiasis	Orthopox virus
Dengue virus infection	Pertussis
Diphtheria	Plague
<i>Diphyllobothrium latum</i>	Poliomyelitis
Ehrlichiosis	Psittacosis
Encephalitis (caused by viral agents)	Q fever
<i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i>	Rabies
Enteric <i>E. coli</i> infection	Retrovirus infections (other than HIV)
Giardiasis	Reye syndrome
Gonorrhea	Rheumatic fever
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> disease (all invasive disease)	Rocky Mountain spotted fever
Hantavirus infection	Rubella and congenital rubella syndrome
Hemolytic uremic syndrome	
Hepatitis (all viral types)	
Histoplasmosis	

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Salmonellosis (including typhoid)	Trichinosis
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	Tuberculosis
Shigellosis	Tularemia
Smallpox	Typhus
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (special situations involving vancomycin resistance or death or critical illness in an otherwise healthy individual)	Unexplained deaths and unexplained critical illness (possibly due to an infectious cause)
Streptococcal disease (invasive disease)	Varicella-zoster disease (primary (chickenpox) and recurrent (shingles))
Syphilis	<i>Vibrio</i> spp.
Tetanus	Yellow fever
Toxic shock syndrome	Yersiniosis
Toxoplasmosis	
Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy	

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.

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### 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.

<b>Local Health Departments</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Anoka County	(763) 422-6970
Bloomington, Edina, Richfield	(952) 563-8900
Carver County	(952) 361-1329
Dakota County	(952) 891-7500
Goodhue County	(651) 385-6100
Hennepin County	(612) 543-5230
Olmsted County	(507) 328-7500
Saint Paul – Ramsey County	(651) 266-1277
Scott County	(952) 496-8584
Washington County	(651) 430-6655
Wright County	(763) 682-7469

<b>Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Metro area	(651) 201-5414
Toll free	(877) 676-5414

For persons in Greater Minnesota, call the MDH District Office nearest to you. To determine which district you are located in, see <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/epis.html>.

<b>District Office</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Central	St. Cloud	(320) 223-7300
South Central	Mankato	(507) 344-2700
West Central	Fergus Falls	(218) 332-5150
Southeast	Rochester	(507) 206-2700
Southwest	Marshall	(507) 476-4220
Northwest	Bemidji	(218) 308-2100
Northeast	Duluth	(218) 302-6166

For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at (612) 543-5230 or call your local health department.

