

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

The following diseases are reportable in Minnesota:

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

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or critical illness in an otherwise healthy individual)	Trichinosis
Streptococcal disease (invasive disease)	Tuberculosis
Syphilis	Tularemia
Tetanus	Typhus
Toxic shock syndrome	Unexplained deaths and unexplained critical illness (possibly due to an infectious cause)
Toxoplasmosis	Varicella-zoster disease (primary (chickenpox) and recurrent (shingles))
Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy	<i>Vibrio</i> spp.
	Yellow fever
	Yersiniosis

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.

Local Health Departments	Telephone
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

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)	Telephone
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 www.health.state.mn.us/about/locations/dist.html

District Office	City	Telephone
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.

