



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Central Michigan District Health Department
“Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities”

For more information, please call: (989) 773-5921 ext. 1413
2012 E. Preston Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858, www.cmdhd.org

February 13, 2017

Dear School Superintendents, Private & Charter School Administrators and Daycare & Preschool Administrators,

The winter season is in full swing and we are noticing an increase in illnesses throughout our jurisdiction. I'd like to take this opportunity to review some important information with you regarding illnesses in schools and our community.

Based on weekly reporting from our schools and information in our disease surveillance systems, we have seen an increase in respiratory flu and gastrointestinal illness numbers. Since you are an important part of these systems, I'd like to remind school staff about the importance of reporting school illnesses weekly. Accurate weekly reporting is essential, especially to identify outbreaks of particular illnesses and when making a determination regarding possibly closing a school due to illness. Staff are asked to report weekly the aggregate numbers of illnesses such as Influenza and Gastrointestinal illnesses. Specific information on how to report may be found on our web site at www.cmdhd.org. Click on the link “Schools” and then the link “Communicable Disease Reporting” for the reporting procedure. Our health department likes to receive these reports by 12 noon each Friday; however, if you do see an increase in illness in between your weekly reports, we ask that you contact your local health department branch office.

As a reminder, schools, daycares and preschools are legally required to report specific diseases and conditions as noted per rule R325.173 of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Communicable Disease Rules.

Some examples of the diseases that schools should report include:

- Vaccine preventable diseases such as pertussis (whooping cough), measles, mumps, meningitis, chickenpox, tetanus
- Hepatitis
- Food or waterborne illnesses: salmonella, shigella, giardia, campylobacter, toxin producing E. coli, and cryptosporidium
- Encephalitis
- Tuberculosis
- Influenza (weekly counts)
- Gastrointestinal illness (weekly counts)
- Animal bites or bat exposures
- A sudden increase in reports of MRSA
- A sudden increase in absences due to gastrointestinal illnesses

As always, we greatly appreciate your interest and cooperation with disease surveillance. We all have a role in working together to prevent the spread of diseases. All of our health department branch offices are still taking appointments and holding walk-in clinics for flu shots – it’s not too late. Your efforts are crucial in assuring a healthier school and community. If you have any additional questions regarding reporting communicable diseases, please contact our Communicable Disease Supervisor, Mari Pat Terpening, R.N., B.S.N., at 989-773-5921 ext. 1434 or your local branch office at the numbers listed below:

Arenac: 989-846-6541, option 2	Isabella: 989-773-5921, option 2
Clare: 989-539-6731, option 2	Osceola: 231-832-5532, option 2
Gladwin: 989-426-9431, option 2	Roscommon: 989-366-9166, option 2

Lastly, to assist with education for your students, parents, coaches, etc., we have added and updated many links to our website’s (www.cmdhd.org) home page under “Norovirus” and “Seasonal Flu”. I would also recommend the following websites for educational resources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Norovirus) <https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Flu) <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/>
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Flu) www.michigan.gov/flu
- American Red Cross (Handwashing) <http://www.scrubclub.org/home.aspx>

To your Health,
Jennifer E. Morse, MD
Medical Director
jmorse@cmdhd.org
Office: 989-773-5921 ext. 1427