Partnering with Schools to prevent and Respond to Communicable Disease Outbreaks

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Monica Czapla, MPH
Infectious Disease Program
Clark County Public Health

Holly Long, M.Ed, BSN, RN
Health Services Manager
Evergreen Public Schools
Overview

• What’s reportable by schools
• How we partner with schools
• Outbreak detection and response
• Overview of 2019 school outbreaks
What’s reportable by school partners?

**WAC 246-110-020**

When a school or childcare center becomes aware of the presence of a contagious disease at the facility, as defined in WAC 246-110-010, the officials at the school or childcare center shall notify the appropriate local health officer for guidance.

**WAC 246-101-420**

Notify the local health department of cases, suspected cases, outbreaks and suspected outbreaks of disease that may be associated with the school.
How we partner with schools

Develop disease specific toolkits:

- Recommendations for how to prepare and respond
- Reporting forms and instructions
- Parent notification letter templates
How we partner with schools

Annual back to school meeting:
• Review current recommendations and tools
• Discuss opportunities for improved support
• Identify additional resource needs

Technical support:
• Available to answer questions (of all kinds)
• Help connect to resources
Outbreak detection and response

How are “cases” detected in a school?

• Provider diagnosed
• School health personnel
• CCPH Communicable Disease contact investigations
Outbreak detection and response

How we define an outbreak:

“Occurrence of disease cases in excess of normal expectancy”

Disease specific examples:

• **VGE:**
  • ≥10% of total staff/student population absent due to similar symptoms of diarrhea and/or vomiting.
  • >2 individuals (students or staff) from the same classroom with diarrhea and/or vomiting within a 24 hour period.

• **Measles:**
  • 1 confirmed case
Outbreak detection and response

How we develop a plan of action:

• Review situation with school partners
• Provide control measure recommendations
• Identify and notify potentially exposed individuals
• Conduct surveillance to:
  ➔ Monitor case trends
  ➔ Detect potential outbreaks
  ➔ Determine when the situation has resolved
Overview of 2019 school outbreaks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outbreak Type</th>
<th>n</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VGE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILI/Influenza</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles*</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Number of schools with a measles exposure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notifiable Condition</th>
<th>n</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pertussis</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickenpox</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeaslesΦ</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>140</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Φ Number of cases indicated as a student in a school or daycare (excludes home schooled cases)
Thank you!

Comments and questions

Infectious Disease Program

Clark County Public Health

Ph: 564.397.8182