



Genesee County Health Department

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Investigation of Communicable Diseases in School and Childcare Facilities

The Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) collects communicable disease reports from health care providers, schools, and childcare centers. The GCHD reviews the reports to identify disease trends, illnesses and outbreaks in the county.

In the event of an actual or potential outbreak of a serious communicable disease, your district may be contacted to provide information to assist us in the investigation of the disease, and ultimately in the protection of the school community. Your assistance during the beginning critical phases of an investigation is important to its success.

The Michigan Public Health Code (MCL 333.5111) and administrative rules give local and state health departments the authority and responsibility to investigate cases of disease and suspected transmission. Any information provided by the school is covered under the Michigan Public Health Code in accordance with state law and will **not violate FERPA standards.** It is extremely important schools maintain confidentiality regarding information shared during a communicable disease investigation.

The Privacy Rule in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) allows for the disclosure of protected health information, without individual client/patient authorization, to public health authorities, who are legally authorized to receive such reports for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease.

An investigator who presents official identification of a local health department or the MDCH shall be provided with medical and epidemiological information pertaining to any of the following persons on request:

- Individuals who have any condition required to be reported or other condition of public health significance
- Individuals, whether ill or well, who are part of a group in which an unusual occurrence, outbreak, or epidemic has occurred
- Individuals who are not known to have a condition, but whose medical or epidemiological information is needed for investigation into the cause of a condition of public health importance
- Individuals potentially exposed to a designated condition

Information which may be requested includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Absence history related to current illness
- Name, date of birth, address and telephone number of the ill person
- Name of child's parent/guardian
- Name of health care provider, if known
- Current immunization information, if available
- List of classmates, teachers, or others who may have been exposed to the disease, with telephone numbers
- Bus route , with telephone numbers
- List of extra-curricular activities student/staff/faculty is active in, with potential need for list of students and staff participants and telephone numbers