

Disease Reporting Matrix

Below is guidance on when mandated reportersFAQ1 in childcare centers and K-12 school settings should report communicable diseases or outbreaks to the Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH).

What Should be Reported:

Illness	Reporting ThresholdsFAQ2
<i>If you are unsure of whether to report a communicable disease or outbreak, or if you encounter an unusual cluster or severe illness, even if doesn't cross the reporting threshold, please contact FCDPH for a consult.</i>	
Gastrointestinal illness (GI) (e.g., norovirus, etc.)	- Two or more cases of vomiting or diarrhea among individuals from different households and who are part of the same linked group FAQ3 with symptom onset within 72 hours of each other and occurring within a 5-day period. - Illness in individual who prepare or handle food.FAQ4
Respiratory illness (e.g., Influenza, COVID-19, RSV, etc.)	Report unusually high numbers, such as: - Facility-wide: greater than 10% of total facility population are absent because of an acute respiratory illness within a 3-day period (based on average daily absence for both students & staff). - Linked GroupFAQ3: when greater than 20% of students and staff in a linked group have an acute respiratory illness, and at least five people are ill within a 3-day period. - Increase in a common respiratory illness occurring out of season for school population.FAQ5

Title 17 diseases (e.g. Measles, Meningococcal disease, Mumps, Pertussis, Rubella, Tuberculosis)	One or more cases (except Varicella, cluster only, see below).
Varicella/chickenpox	Three or more cases with varicella symptoms among individuals from different households within the total facility population, occurring within a 3-week period. <i>*Threshold lower if high-risk exposed individuals (immunocompromised, etc.)</i>
Conjunctivitis/Pink eye	Ten or more cases of conjunctivitis among individuals from different households who are part of the same linked group FAQ3, occurring within a 7-day period.
Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) <i>Cases may be confirmed, suspected, or exhibit similar symptoms consistent with the HFMD.</i>	Five or more HFMD cases among individuals from different households and who are part of the same linked group FAQ3 occurring within a 3-to-5-day period.
Non-Title 17 diseases, such as: Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), Impetigo, Lice, Mono, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Scabies, Scarlet Fever, Strep Throat/Group A Staphylococcus, Ringworm, Viral Meningitis, any unusual disease, or other illness of concern (skin, soft tissue, or other) <i>Cases may be confirmed, suspected, or exhibit similar symptoms consistent with the same illness.</i>	- Two or more cases of the same illness among individuals from different households and who are part of the same linked group FAQ3 occurring within a 3-to-5-day period (or within the disease's incubation period). - Three or more cases of the same illness among individuals from different households within the total facility population, occurring within a 3-to-5 days period (or during illness incubation period). - Increase in a common syndrome occurring out of season or at levels higher than expected for school population. FAQ5

How to Report:

Call the Communicable Disease investigation Unit

- a. During Business Hours: (559) 600-3332 (*non-urgent after-hours, please leave a voice message*)
- b. Urgent After Hours: (559) 600-3111

Reporting FAQs:

1) Who is considered a mandated reporter?

Disease reporting to Public Health is required by California Law (Title 17, California Code of Regulations). Under Title 17, healthcare providers, school nurses (§2500(a)(14)), and anyone in charge of a public or private school, kindergarten, boarding school, or day nursery (§2508) must report suspected or confirmed reportable diseases to the local health department within the required timeframes. Reports should be made even if another entity has already reported the case.

2) Are the threshold counts for students only?

No, these counts apply to the total facility population, which includes both staff and students.

3) What is considered a “linked group”?

Epi-linked groups may include a classroom, grade, sports/activity teams, or before/after-school program, etc.

4) Why are there different requirements for GI illnesses among those who handle food?

Due to an increased risk of transmission of foodborne illnesses there are stricter reporting needs for food handlers.

Health & Safety Code § § 113949.1, 113949.2(a), and Chapter 3, Article 3 of the California Retail Food Code

5) The reporting requirements state: “Increase in a common syndrome occurring out of season or at levels higher than expected for school population.” What does this mean?

This refers to situations where illnesses that are usually expected in a population occur at unusual times or in higher-than-normal numbers. For example, influenza cases are typically expected from October through May. However, an increase in influenza cases during July or August may be important for the Health Department to investigate.

6) I am concerned about a case or health trend at my school, but it doesn’t cross the thresholds listed in the matrix, what should I do?

If you encounter any unusual cluster, severe illness, or other items of concern please contact the FCDPH for consultation at (559) 600-3332.