



# Outbreak Criteria and Reporting Requirements for Communicable Diseases Common Among Children

To report suspected outbreaks or other reportable diseases, contact the Communicable Disease Reporting System by calling (888) 397-3993 or (213) 240-7821.

Disease	Outbreak Criteria
<b>Acute Respiratory Diseases</b> (COVID-19, Influenza, RSV, etc.)	<p>You <b>must</b> report an outbreak if the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In an epidemiologically linked group (e.g., classroom, sports team)</b>, a minimum of 5* cases (or 20% of the group) meet case definition for <a href="#">acute respiratory illness</a> within a 7-day period, OR</li> <li>• <b>Across the facility (e.g., entire school)</b>, at least 10% of average daily attendance are absent or showing symptoms of acute respiratory illness, with a minimum of 5* individuals ill, within a 3-day span.</li> </ul> <p><i>*For groups smaller than 15, the minimum is reduced to 3 cases.</i></p>
<b>Conjunctivitis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 5 confirmed or suspected cases with symptoms consistent with conjunctivitis occurring within 3 to 5 days and within an epidemiologically linked group.</li> </ul>
<b>Diarrheal Diseases</b> (including Norovirus and other unknown etiologies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 3 cases or suspected cases with symptoms consistent with norovirus occurring within 3 to 5 days and within an epidemiologically linked group.</li> </ul>
<b>Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 5* confirmed cases or suspected cases with symptoms consistent with HFMD occurring within 3 to 5 days and within an epidemiologically linked group.</li> </ul> <p><i>*For groups smaller than 15, the minimum is reduced to 3 cases.</i></p>
<b>Head Lice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 5 cases in an epidemiologically linked group.</li> </ul>
<b>Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 3 cases or suspected cases with symptoms consistent with MRSA occurring within 3 to 5 days and within an epidemiologically linked group.</li> </ul>
<b>Pertussis (Whooping Cough)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The outbreak definition can vary. <b>All known or suspected individual cases should be <a href="#">reported</a> to LAC DPH.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Varicella (Chickenpox)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally, an outbreak is defined as three or more epi-linked cases within a 3-week period. However, if there is exposure among a group at high risk for complications (immunocompromised or susceptible groups), the threshold may be lower. Contact VPDC@ph.lacounty.gov or call 213-351-7800 to discuss concerns.</li> </ul>

This guidance and additional information are available at:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/schools/index.htm>