



# 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 You <b>must</b> report an outbreak if the following criteria are met:
<b>Acute Respiratory Diseases</b> (Influenza, RSV, etc.) <i>*Not including COVID-19</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 10% of average daily attendance absent with respiratory illness over a 3-day period facility wide, OR</li> <li>• 20% of an epidemiologically linked group ill with similar respiratory symptoms, with a minimum of 5 ill, sustained over a 3-day period.</li> </ul>
<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>COVID-19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 3 cases with symptomatic or asymptomatic COVID-19 infection within a 7-day period who are epidemiologically linked, do not share a household, and are not close contacts of each other outside of the outbreak site (except when transportation is provided by the employer or site).</li> <li>• For workplace settings with more than 100 employees on-site, an outbreak is also defined as 5% of the facility census are cases (symptomatic or asymptomatic) within a 7-day period even in the absence of identifiable epidemiological links. This second definition does NOT apply to educational settings.</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>
<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 reported to LACDPH.</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>