

# Partnering with Schools to prevent and Respond to Communicable Disease Outbreaks

---

January 22, 2019

Monica Czapla, MPH  
Infectious Disease Program  
Clark County Public Health

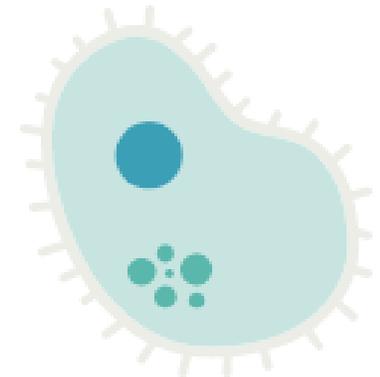
Holly Long, M.Ed, BSN, RN  
Health Services Manager  
Evergreen Public Schools



# 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



### Clark County Public Health Chickenpox Information for School Health Personnel

#### We recommend schools have policies and procedures in place to:

- Managing staff, student, and volunteer immunity records. Evidence of chickenpox immunity includes:
  - Birth before 1980
  - Documentation of age-appropriate varicella vaccination
  - [ ]
  - [ ]

- Excludin
- Impleme
- Tracking

#### What to do whe

- Exclude sympto
- If a conf sheet to letter ter
  - [ ]
- Identify who ma
- Begin co school, i Form (li



### Clark County Public Health Chickenpox School Report Form

#### Instructions:

Please use this worksheet to report each case of chickenpox identified at your facility to the Clark County Public Health Communicable Disease Unit (per WAC 246-110-010).

<b>Student Information:</b>	Name:	Grade:	DOB:	Date Reported to CCPH:
Address:		City:	County:	State: Zip:
Parent/Guardian Name:		Primary Phone #: ( ) -		Secondary Phone #: ( ) -
<b>Facility Information:</b>	Facility Name and Address:			
Name and title of person reporting:		Email:	Phone #:	

## Chickenpox (Varicella)

Fact Sheet

### What is it?

Chickenpox is caused by the varicella zoster virus (VZV). It is often a mild illness, but may be severe in infants, pregnant women, and persons with weakened immune systems.

is the best way to prevent chickenpox; two doses of varicella vaccine are up to 98% effective at sease. All children 12 months and older should receive the vaccine.

### symptoms of chickenpox?

[school letterhead]

[insert date]

### Potential Exposure to Chickenpox

Dear Staff, Student, or Parent/Legal Guardian,

We are writing to inform you about a possible exposure to chickenpox (also known as varicella) at [school/childcare] in [grade level or classroom name]. Exposures may have occurred on [date(s)]. Although not usually serious, chickenpox can be a virus when the rash becomes

# 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

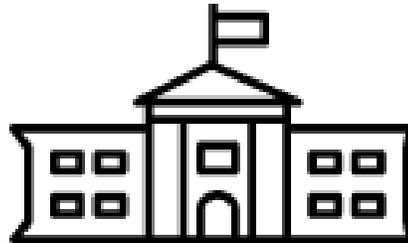


# Outbreak detection and response

---

## How are “cases” detected in a school?

- Provider diagnosed
- School health personnel
- CCPH Communicable Disease contact investigations



CLARK COUNTY  
WASHINGTON  
PUBLIC HEALTH

# Outbreak detection and response

---

## How we define an outbreak:

“Occurrence of disease cases in excess of normal expectancy”

## Disease specific examples:

- **VGE:**
  - $\geq 10\%$  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

<b>Schools &amp; daycares</b>	<b>Outbreak Type</b>	<b>n</b>
	VGE	18
	ILI/Influenza	11
	Measles*	15
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>44</b>

\* Number of schools with a measles exposure

<b>Students (Schools &amp; daycare)</b>	<b>Notifiable Condition</b>	<b>n</b>
	Pertussis	70
	Chickenpox	16
	Measles <sup>Φ</sup>	54
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>140</b>

<sup>Φ</sup> 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

