

August 2009

Dear School Principal:

Illness patterns in school age children can be an important indicator of communicable disease occurrence in the community. Disease prevention and control efforts depend on your participation in the reporting process. Communicable disease cases that occur among students and staff at your facility should be reported to the Oakland County Health Division (OCHD), Communicable Disease Unit (CD Unit).

As you may be aware, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year it is now possible to report communicable diseases electronically. Over the summer and fall the OCHD has been training school staff who are responsible for CD reporting in the new electronic format at the Health and Human Services Communication Portal. As you will see electronic reporting is quicker than paper reporting, it saves money and is easy to complete. It also allows for timely two way communication for health messages from us and feedback from you. To assist in reporting the following documents are available at the Communication Portal.

- 1) Updated List of Reportable Diseases
- 2) Updated Communicable Disease Reference Chart

These documents can also be found on our website at: www.oakgov.com/health under the "Public Health Fact Sheet" link. The OCHD website is also accessible through the Communication Portal.

As in the past please complete a report for each week of the school year. Confidentiality of health information is critical. Please keep this information in a private area not visible to staff or the public.

Please Note:

- Reporting has been changed slightly:
 - Students with **Rash Illness with Fever** should now be reported by name.
 - For the weeks that a school is not in session please submit a report for those weeks with the "**No School in Session**" box checked.
- Names of children who have **Chickenpox** still need to be reported.
- It is very important for us to have accurate information related to *respiratory diseases* such as Influenza. We appreciate your attention to the difference between illness caused by **Influenza** and those caused by a "**Stomach Virus**".
- Names of children who have diseases such as Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye), Impetigo, Mono, Pediculosis, (Head Lice), Ringworm and Scabies DO NOT need to be reported.

As always, please report any serious communicable diseases or the unusual occurrence, outbreak or epidemic within 24 hrs directly to the Communicable Disease Unit at 248-858-1286 or 1-888-350-0900, ext. 81286.

Thank you very much for your work with us on this matter. We really do look forward to your weekly reports!

Oakland County Health Division
Department of Health and Human Services

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