

Guidance for Schools and Child Care Facilities: Exposure Notices and Disease Reporting

To immediately report a disease or outbreak in schools or child care to Marin County Public Health, call 415-473-2398. For all other non-urgent reports or questions, please email HHSSchools@MarinCounty.gov or HHSCildCare@MarinCounty.gov.

DISEASE	SEND AN EXPOSURE NOTICE?	WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS FOR:	WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL TO REPORT TO MCPH?
Amebiasis	Yes	28 days	Report clusters only: ≥ 5 related cases (a related case is one that occurs within the incubation period (21 days) of exposure to a case at the same school)
Bed Bugs	Yes	2 weeks or longer	Do not report
Campylobacter	Yes	5 days	Report clusters only: ≥ 5 related cases (a related case is one that occurs within the incubation period (21 days) of exposure to a case at the same school)
Chickenpox	Yes	21 days	Report clusters only: ≥ 5 related cases (a related case is one that occurs within the incubation period (21 days) of exposure to a case at the same school)
CMV (Cytomegalovirus)	Yes	12 weeks	Do not report
COVID-19	Yes, for an outbreak or widespread illness only	10 days	See Respiratory Virus Guidance for TK-12 Schools, Child Cares and Youth Programs 2024/25 for reporting guidelines
E. coli O157 / STEC (Shiga toxin-producing e. coli)	Yes	10 days	Single case. Food handlers/child care staff require clearance to return to work.
Fifth Disease/ Slap Cheek	Yes	20 days	Do not report
Flu (Seasonal)	Yes, for an outbreak or widespread illness only	4 days	See Respiratory Virus Guidance for TK-12 Schools, Child Cares and Youth Programs 2024/25 for reporting guidelines Report a single case ONLY if a child is hospitalized in the ICU or dies

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Giardia	Yes	14 days	Report clusters only: ≥5 related cases (a related case is one that occurs within the incubation period (21 days) of exposure to a case at the same school)
Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease	Yes	5 days	Report ONLY if a child is hospitalized
Hepatitis A	Yes	50 days	Single case. Food handlers/child care staff require clearance to return to work.
Hepatitis B	Yes	180 days	Single case
Hepatitis C	Yes	6 months	Single case
Impetigo	Yes	n/a	Do not report
Measles	Yes	21 days	Report immediately by phone
Meningococcal Meningitis	Yes	10 days	Report immediately by phone
Mononucleosis	Yes	6 weeks	Do not report
MPX (Monkeypox)	Yes	21 days	Single case
MRSA	Yes	N/A	Report a single case ONLY if a child is hospitalized in the ICU or dies
Mumps	Yes	25 days	Single case
Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)	Yes	72 hours	Do not report
Pinworm	Yes	2 months	Do not report
Respiratory Infection (cause unknown)	For an outbreak or widespread illness only		See Respiratory Virus Guidance for TK-12 Schools, Child Cares and Youth Programs 2024/25 for reporting guidelines
Ringworm (on body or scalp)	Yes	Body: 10 days Scalp: 14 days	Do not report
Roseola (Sixth disease)	Yes	14 days	Do not report
RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)	For an outbreak or widespread illness only	8 days	See Respiratory Virus Guidance for TK-12 Schools, Child Cares and Youth Programs 2024/25 for reporting guidelines Report a single case ONLY if there is a death in a child < 5 years old

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Rubella (German measles)	Yes	21 days	Single case
Salmonella	Yes	72 hours	Single case. Food handlers/child care staff require clearance to return to work.
Scabies	Yes	4 days if has had it before; 6 weeks if has not had it before	Do not report
Shigella	Yes	7 days	Single case. Food handlers/child care staff require clearance to return to work.
Shingles	Yes	21 days	Report 2 cases within 21 days
Strep Throat/ Scarlet Fever	Yes	10 days	Report cluster only, defined as: -Strep Throat: ≥ 5 cases -Scarlet Fever: ≥ 3 cases Cases must be confirmed by throat culture or rapid test within 1 week
Typhoid/ Paratyphoid Fever	Yes	Typhoid: 60 days Paratyphoid: 14 days	Single case
Viral Gastroenteritis (Norovirus)	Yes, for ≥ 2 related cases within 24-48 hours	72 hours	Report ≥ 2 related cases within 24-48 hours. See CDPH's Norovirus Toolkit for more information. Staff must be without symptoms for 48 hours before returning to work.
Viral Meningitis	Yes	Varies	Single case
Viral Mouth Infection (Herpangina, Viral stomatitis)	Herpangina: Yes; Stomatitis: No		Report clusters of 3 or more cases of herpangina (a form of coxsackie virus); Do not report stomatitis.

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Whooping Cough (Pertussis)	Yes (see instructions for notices in reporting notes)	21 days	<p>Single case</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send an exposure notice for the first case of pertussis. • After sending an exposure notice for the first case, if cases continue, send it one week after the first case, and then monthly, if cases continue. <p>Grade level recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For high school, send the notice to the whole school (indicate grade level of exposure). • For middle school, send to grade level (indicate grade level of exposure). • For elementary school, send to class level. • Also, send the notice to any extracurricular activities (e.g., sports teams) that the case was involved in. • Send the notice to all staff who are in direct contact with students for 1 hour or more daily. (e.g., teachers, front office staff and counselors)
Positive TB Skin Test (PPD)	No	n/a	Children with a positive skin test and normal chest X-ray and no symptoms of TB are not reportable.

FAQ for Schools and Child Cares:

1) When can sick school staff return to school?

For **gastrointestinal illness** (such as amebiasis, campylobacter, E. coli, giardia, hepatitis A, norovirus, salmonella):

- If the staff is a **food handler* OR works in child care**, then follow the return to school/child care guidelines for each illness above.
- If the staff is **NOT a food handler or does NOT work in child care**, then he or she may return to school 24-48 hours after symptoms have stopped and fever is gone without the use of medications that reduce fever.

For **respiratory illness**, see [Respiratory Virus Guidance for TK-12 Schools, Child Cares and Youth Programs 2024/25](#).

**A food handler is a person who is involved in the preparation (including contact with surfaces and equipment), serving, or handling of food or beverages (including ice), to be consumed by individuals other than the person's immediate family.*

2) Can a school or child care create an exclusion policy that is more or less restrictive?

The school may create a more restrictive policy, but not a less restrictive policy, than the Public Health Department's recommendation.

3) What if a student or staff's medical provider recommends a different restriction period?

The student or staff's medical provider may recommend a longer restriction period, but not a shorter period, than the Public Health Department's recommendation. In the case that a medical provider recommends a longer restriction period, that will take precedence over the Public Health Department's recommendation.

Visit www.marinhhs.org/content/communicable-diseases-exposure-noticesfact-sheets for more information and exposure notices in English and Spanish.