

# IDRS Infectious Disease Reporting System

Disease Reporting 24 Hours a Day

Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health

## QUICK FACTS FOR GASTROINTESTINAL OUTBREAKS IN SCHOOLS

### IDENTIFICATION

Outbreak: an increase in illness above the expected rate.

- What is your "normal" rate of illness/absence?
- Take seasonal patterns into account
- Rough indicator of an outbreak: a doubling in the number of students absent due to a similar illness over that of normal for a particular time of year.

### REPORTING

If you suspect an outbreak, contact your school's health department:

- Franklin County Public Health (via IDRS): 614-525-8888
  - (Schools not in Columbus or Worthington)
- Columbus Public Health: 614-645-1474
  - (Schools in Columbus or Worthington)
- If you're not sure which to contact, call the reporting line: 614-525-8888.

### DATA GATHERING

- Track ill students during an outbreak using a line list
- Communicate updates and new cases to public health personnel daily
- Coordinate stool testing with public health personnel

### CONTROL

Hand washing is the key to controlling all gastrointestinal outbreaks!

- Redouble efforts to promote hand washing: educate children, teachers, parents.
- Restrict sharing of any communal food items during outbreak (i.e. class parties)
- Exclude any ill staff for 48 hours after symptoms have resolved, ESPECIALLY food service staff!

Communications

- Coordinate notifications for staff and parents with public health personnel

Cleaning

- Deep clean/disinfect all bathroom areas including toilet handles, door handles, and sink handles.
- ALSO spot clean, disinfect, and rinse immediately after an episode of illness.
- Wear masks and gloves when cleaning areas contaminated by feces or vomitus.



c/o Franklin County Public Health, 280 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4562

Call: (614) 525-8888 • After Hours: (614) 525-3965 • Fax: (614) 525-8890

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