

The Vaccinator

A Newsletter of the Communicable Disease Reporting System (CDRS)

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During the summer months there is usually an increase in the number of cases of diarrheal illnesses. This summer the trend is starting early.

The Ohio Department of Health defines diarrhea as three or more loose stools in a twenty-four hour period.

(<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/pdf/IDCM/sect2a.pdf>)

Some of the diarrheal illnesses seen in children include:

- E.Coli
- Shigella
- Salmonella
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Giardia
- Campylobacteriosis



How is it spread?

Spread may occur whether or not the infected person has symptoms. It may spread as a result of:

- Improper or lack of hand washing after toilet use
- Contact with contaminated toys, playpens, etc.
- Contact with animals such as puppies, kittens, or reptiles.
- Contact with contaminated drinking water or food

According to the Ohio Administrative Code 3701-3-13 Isolation Requirement

Any person or child having diarrhea, who works in or attends a child care center, shall be excluded from the child care center and may return only after his or her diarrhea has ceased.

** A person or child with infectious diarrhea of known cause shall be isolated in accordance with the provisions of the rule set forth for the specified disease.

Prevention

- Proper hand washing is the first step
- Hand washing after using the toilet and changing diapers
- Hand washing before eating, serving or preparing food
- Use hand sanitizer when necessary
- Use disposable paper towels to dry hands after washing them
- Avoid water related activities – pools, water parks, etc. if you have diarrhea
- When preparing food, use gloves, tongs, paper towels, or some other barrier between your hands and the food
 - Pay special attention to proper disposal of soiled diapers and human waste
 - Wash your hands after handling any animal, animal cage or aquarium
 - Increase routine cleaning schedules when indicated
 - Keep kitchen service disinfected
 - Do not work or attend daycare if having diarrhea



Public Health Responsibilities

Columbus Public Health and the Franklin County Board of Health will investigate all lab confirmed cases of the illnesses identified above.

We will help facilitate additional testing in all children identified in specific classes or cohorts.

Provide exclusion policy support.

Provide educational materials and resources as needs are identified.

Please contact Columbus Public Health Communicable Disease Prevention Team at 614-645-1474 or the Franklin County Board of Health at 614-462-3097 with any questions or concerns.

If you are interested in the “Wash My Hands” song CD or poster, please contact the Communicable Disease Prevention Team at 614-645-1474.

For current information about reportable infectious diseases, check out the following websites:

- Columbus Public Health: www.publichealth.columbus.gov
- Columbus and Franklin County Communicable Disease Reporting System (CDRS): www.cdinfo.com

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