

## Infectious Disease Plan

### OVERVIEW

An infectious disease is an illness caused by the presence of disease-causing agents or germs, including viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites and other microbes. These diseases are called communicable diseases or transmissible diseases due to their potential of transmission from one person to another.

Transmission may occur by direct contact with an infected person or animal, by ingesting contaminated food or water, or by contact with infected surroundings or contaminated air. Infectious (communicable) diseases that usually require a more specialized route of infection— for example, by insects such as mosquitoes or ticks (disease vectors) —are usually not regarded as contagious. Contagious diseases acquired by blood or needle transmission or sexual contact require prophylactic strategies but not measures such as social distancing or quarantine. Strict measures, as addressed in annual Blood Borne Pathogen training, are a prevention strategy in place in the school system.

### Purpose

This pandemic or infectious disease plan provides guidance for reducing illness at school on a regular basis as well as procedures during infectious disease outbreaks and pandemic periods.

The plan includes the following:

1. Strategies to prevent and reduce the spread of infectious diseases at our school.
2. Procedures for canceling school due to an infectious disease outbreak.
3. Considerations for reopening school.

Notification of confirmed pandemic or infectious disease threats to the district will come from Georgia Department of Public health (DPH).

1. DPH Disease Prevention Specialists will notify Cirrus Academy Charter School (CACS) School Nurse if the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) declares a pandemic event or an infectious disease threat to the district.
  - CACS School Nurse will receive guidance from DPH Disease Prevention Specialists regarding parent communication.
2. The School Nurse will notify the CACS Superintendent/CEO.
  - The Parent Engagement Coordinator will work with the School Nurse on communication to parents/guardians, students, and staff.
3. The School Nurse will work with the Superintendent and the Parent Engagement Coordinator to initiate the CACS Pandemic or Infectious Disease Plan.

### At-Risk Populations

Students are a high- risk population for infectious disease, and exposure to a variety of infectious diseases in a school population is inevitable. Infectious diseases are common in young children who have immature immune systems and are developmentally unable to understand and practice the concepts of good personal hygiene. However, older youth and teenagers exposed to different social situations are also prone to certain infections. In any school population, there are certain individuals who may have a higher risk of complications if exposed to specific diseases. Students and staff who are medically fragile or are immunosuppressed, pregnant, and/or have chronic disease, nutritional deficiencies or debilitating illness should be informed of the possible risks of acquiring an infection.

The responsibility of the school is to inform those individuals to consult with their licensed health care provider. The licensed health care provider will assess the risk, provide appropriate treatment

and/or make recommendations so that reasonable accommodations are put in place for the individual by the school.

#### Exclusion From School For Health Reasons

The guidelines below have been developed for the exclusion of students who have communicable or contagious diseases. These regulations are in compliance with the requirements of the local health department.

- A student with any of the following symptoms will be excluded from school until such time as the student is free of symptoms, has been satisfactorily treated, or submits a signed physician's statement that he/she is no longer contagious.
  - A temperature of 100 degrees or more. Student must be fever free for 24 hours, without medication, before re-entry.
  - A deep, barking, unusually persistent cough/fits of coughing, or productive cough of colored mucous.
  - An undetermined rash, blisters, or scaly patches over any part of the body.
  - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. A student must be symptom free for 24 hours without medication before re-entry.
  - Red, draining eyes.
  - Sore throat with fever.
  - Intense itching with signs and symptoms of secondary infection.
  - Open, draining lesions.
  - Jaundice-a yellowish tint to eyes or skin for unknown reason.
  - Pain and/or swelling at angle of jaw.
  - An unusual behavior changes such as irritability, lethargy, or listlessness.
- The school will segregate the ill child from well children at the school until he/she can go home to limit the spread of disease.
- Parents of children possibly exposed to infectious diseases, as well as staff, will be informed.
- The school will adhere to the exclusion and readmission recommendations.
- The staff will watch for signs and symptoms of communicable diseases in classrooms where one is identified.

#### Communicable Disease Transmission Routes

- Airborne
- Respiratory droplets from an infected person spread by sneezing, coughing, and speaking.
- Direct skin contacts with wounds or discharges from an infected person.
- Fecal-oral route when effective hand washing is not done after toileting and there is contamination of hands, food, drink, or of objects put in mouth.
- Indirect contact when microorganisms linger on objects such as doorknobs, faucet handles, desktops, phones, handrails, and computer keypads.

Disease, Illness or Organism Health Department	Report to County
Bronchiolitis, Bronchitis, Cold, Croup, Ear Infection	NO
Pneumonia, Sinus Infection and Most Sore Throats	NO
Cold Sore	NO
Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	NO
Diphtheria	YES
Influenza (The Flu)	NO
Mononucleosis (Mono)	NO
Mumps	YES
Respiratory Syncytial (Virus) (RSV)	NO
Strep Throat	NO
Tuberculosis (TB)	YES

Whooping Cough	YES
Gastroenteritis – Bacterial	YES
Gastroenteritis – Viral	NO
Giardia (a Parasite)	YES
Hepatitis A (virus)	YES
Pinworms	NO
Haemophilus Influenza Type B	YES
Neisseria Meningitides	YES
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	YES
Viral Meningitis	YES
Chickenpox	YES
Fifth Disease	NO
German Measles	YES
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease	NO
Head Lice (A parasite)	NO
Impetigo	YES
Measles	NO
MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staph aureus)	NO

Molluscum	NO
Ringworm on body and Ringworm on scalp	NO
Roseola (virus)	NO
Scabies (A parasite)	NO
COVID-19	YES

## STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND REDUCE THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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How Germs Spread: Illnesses such as the flu (influenza), Norovirus (sudden and violent nausea, vomiting and diarrhea), and colds are caused by viruses that infect the nose, throat, lungs, and gastrointestinal tract. Flu and cold viruses usually spread from person to person when an infected person coughs or sneezes and the virus is inhaled by another person. Norovirus is spread by infected persons passing germs through food or ineffective hand washing. Germs are also spread by droplets when a person touches something that is contaminated with a virus and then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth. The length of time germs can live on certain surfaces depends on the virus.

Disease Prevention & Education: To help prevent the spread of any infectious disease, schools have an opportunity to educate students, staff, and the community on social etiquette, good health and hygiene habits, and disease prevention. CACS will provide education and reminders on handwashing, coughing, and sneezing any time there is a suspected outbreak and during the school year as requested by staff. CACS will have current illness/disease prevention information on the CACS Health Services website. During times of suspected or identified infectious disease outbreaks, the school district will coordinate with DPH to address the outbreak.

Our basic educational message is:

4. Cover your cough
5. Wash your hands often
6. Stay home if you're sick
7. Wear appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) as recommended by DPH.

**1. Cover Your Cough:** Teach students coughing and sneezing etiquette in classrooms and hang instructional posters in the school buildings. Have an ample supply of tissues available in each classroom and school area.

8. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
9. Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.
10. Wash your hands after you cough or sneeze or use hand sanitizer.

**2. Wash Your Hands Often:** Handwashing with soap and warm water is the best option. Hand sanitizers can be effective when there is no access to water, they are most effective if they have at least 60% alcohol in them. Staff are encouraged to provide time and opportunity each day for students to practice washing their hands with soap and water upon arrival at school, after coughing and/or sneezing in hands, at the beginning of the lunch line before eating, after bathroom use, and after recess.

11. Wet hands with water, apply soap and scrub hands together for at least 20 seconds.

12. Thoroughly rinse under warm, running water.
13. Dry hands completely with a paper towel. Use a paper towel to turn off faucet handles and open restroom doors. If there are air dryers in the restrooms, rub hands vigorously together under the dryer until completely dry.
14. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette Websites:
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>
  - Mayo Clinic  
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/in-depth/hand-washing/art-20046253>
  - National Science Foundation (NSF) Scrub Club  
<https://www.scrubclub.org/index.php>

3. *Stay Home if You're Sick*: A primary strategy against the spread of illness is for sick people to stay home from school. This includes students, staff, and volunteers. In times of suspected or identified infectious disease outbreaks, sick leave policies for staff and students will be reviewed, modified (if needed), clearly communicated, and consistently enforced.

4. *Wear Appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)*: When working with students with suspected infectious disease, staff will wear PPE as recommended by DPH.

*Illness/Disease Monitoring & Tracking*: During times of a potential infectious disease outbreak, the registrar will inform the building nurse of increased absenteeism due to illness. If a building has 10% or more of their total enrollment absent due to illness, the building nurse will report it to the Georgia Department of Public Health through its online reporting system. The School Nurse will implement a surveillance system to detect unusual rates of illness in schools. The school nurse, registrar and parent engagement coordinator will monitor illnesses daily, track illness trends and report to DPH.

Staff are trained to be alert to children who are ill. Examples of symptoms include fever, frequent cough and/or sneezing, sore throat, and vomiting/diarrhea. Symptomatic students need to be sent to the health office for evaluation.

During periods of suspected or identified infectious disease outbreaks.

15. The school nurse should protect themselves by wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when deemed necessary by DPH.
16. Students who have a cough/sneezing with a fever will stay in the health office and will be reasonably distanced from healthy students until parents arrive. Having an ill person distanced can help to slow or prevent the spread of disease.

*Disinfection & Cleaning Procedures*: Keep commonly touched surfaces such as stairway railings, door handles, computer keyboards, bathroom faucets, and surfaces, drinking fountains, telephones, etc. clean by wiping down with a disinfectant. During an infectious disease outbreak, consideration will be given to increasing the frequency of cleaning these commonly touched surfaces and areas based on the nature of the disease. In addition, we will consult with DPH for guidance on any necessary operational procedures that need to be enacted (i.e., changing HVAC filters, specialized disinfectants to use, closing rooms for a period of time, proper ventilation, etc.). When an employee or student with a suspected infectious disease is identified and has left the building, it is important that their work area, along with any other known places they have been, are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Clean the surface to remove dirt and soil with a cleaning agent, if needed, and disinfect following manufacturers' recommendations, paying particular attention to dwell time requirements. The person cleaning and

disinfecting (usually a custodian) should wear appropriate PPE according to DPH recommendation. Hands must be washed or sanitized at the completion of the procedure. During times of a specifically known or suspected disease outbreak, the school district will consult with DPH for guidance.

Nutrition Services Food Safety/Sanitation Protocols: The CACS Nutrition Services Department follows safe food handling and storage practices from receiving through meal service. **Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)** principles are followed in each step of the food preparation process. Nutrition staff receive training upon hire and at least three times a year which includes education on good personal hygiene and proper food handling practices. Staff are not allowed to come to work if they have a fever, diarrhea, jaundice, or vomiting. During periods of suspected or confirmed infectious disease outbreak, modifications will be considered to services based on the severity and nature of the outbreak. This could include discontinuing the use of self-serve salad bars, serving sack lunches instead of cafeteria-style lunches, and having more stringent sick employee policies. Nutrition Service Departments will follow guidance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Social Distancing: During suspected or identified infectious disease outbreaks, several social distancing measures can be taken to reduce the spread of an infectious disease. Discourage handshaking. Discourage the sharing of drinks or food. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Avoid face-to-face meetings, however, if unavoidable, maintain a distance between individuals as determined by DPH. Cancel or postpone non-essential meetings, gatherings, assemblies, field trips, workshops, or training as deemed necessary by the superintendent in collaboration with DPH. Consider having flexible hours and attendance policies to maintain social distancing and reduce illness in district office facilities.

Where to Get Information: If an infectious disease outbreak or pandemic occurs, having accurate and reliable information will be critical. Here are several websites to consult.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention World Health Organization (WHO)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/> <https://www.who.int/>
2. Georgia Department of Public Health  
<https://dph.georgia.gov/>
3. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)  
<https://www.hhs.gov/>

## PREPAREDNESS

Effective preparedness includes establishing policies to maintain sanitation, keep records current, conduct periodic inspections and regular maintenance and training for staff.

### General Activities

- Plan, exercise, evaluate and revise the Emergency Annex for Infectious Disease.
- Train and equip staff to assure competencies and capacities needed to respond to an infectious disease outbreak.
- Develop strategic partnerships with local community health care institutions and providers, and local, State, and federal response agencies and their staff.

- Develop and implement surveillance and reporting procedures to monitor illness patterns in the schools.
- Educate school and parents about infectious disease and recommend protective measures
- Inform and update school about the potential impacts of an infectious disease outbreak on essential services and city, county, and school infrastructure.
- Stockpile necessary equipment and supplies that will be needed to respond to a disease outbreak.
- Establish ventilation (HVAC) standards to be used during response and recovery (such as filter change schedules, etc.).

#### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Provide PPE to staff (For example, N-95, which must be fit-tested, or surgical masks and nitrile gloves, an alternative to latex gloves).
- Address PPE issues with staff (i.e., uncomfortable, frequent changes, difficulties recognizing coworkers, communication issues, one size does not fit all).
- Ensure that you have adequate stock and an array of sizes and types available.
- Provide and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer and non-aerosol spray disinfectant for commonly touched surfaces.
- Train all staff to use PPE, including administrators, maintenance, and security staff.
- Encourage staff to talk about the PPE issues and to develop a “we will get through this” mentality.

#### Training

- Require new staff, including substitutes and volunteers, to complete First Aid and CPR training, including child CPR.
- Provide refresher awareness training for all staff.
- Train maintenance staff to use chemicals properly to prevent accidental contamination and human exposure.
- Provide training on identifying symptoms of infectious disease.
- Educate school staff on the process and importance of routine hand hygiene and standard health precautions.

- Maintain training and attendance records on all staff (paid and volunteer).

### Emergency Contacts

- Compile an emergency contact list of authorities. Include the names and phone numbers for specific personnel from each agency or authority.
- Determine which agency or authority would serve as first responder(s). The first responder represents the most important authority that needs to be involved in response to an infectious disease.
- Establish a relationship with local authorities to contact in relation to biosecurity concerns. Include law enforcement officials, hazardous material (HAZMAT) representatives, environmental health specialists/sanitarions, health officials, fire and rescue department representatives, or federal food safety regulatory agency representatives (FDA and FSIS) and U.S. Homeland Security officials.
- Distribute the emergency contact list to appropriate school staff.
- Post the emergency contact list in a secure yet prominent place; make it available in hardcopies, wallet cards, and on an intranet system.
- Ask key staff to program the emergency contact numbers into their telephones.
- Verify and update emergency contact information often. Note dates of revisions to prevent confusion.
- Establish procedures for communicating with students, parents, and the media when necessary (for example, notices of incidents or a press release). Follow an established plan as designated by the school board.

### CANCELLING SCHOOL DUE TO AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAK

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CACS will collaborate with DPH to monitor disease outbreaks in our school and to determine if and when school should be canceled. The information provided by DPH will also guide CACS decisions on the length of time for a school closure and the extent of the closure.

Legal Authorities for Cancellation of School: The CACS Superintendent has the authority to cancel classes when it is deemed necessary for the health and safety of students and staff. In the Superintendent's absence, Governing Board President or designee also carries that authority.

If school is canceled due to an infectious disease outbreak, all other school-related gatherings (athletic events, concerts, after school activities, field trips, etc.) will also be canceled. In some cases, non-academic events may be canceled even if classes are not.

Communicating with Stakeholders during an Infectious Disease Outbreak: CACS will attempt to provide accurate, consistent, and timely communication with staff, students, and parents. We will coordinate with DPH to disseminate critical information from the health department, to develop and deliver common health messages and educational materials to families as information is received.

Information will be disseminated via our normal emergency mass communication methods.

Continuity of Operations Plan: Certain essential district-level functions will need to continue even during a school closure situation. Essential services may include:

4. Payroll, Accounts Payable
5. Communications, Technology (website, press releases, learning at home resources, etc.)
6. Facilities Coordination
7. Emergency Operations Center (planning for the reopening of schools)

Identify essential personnel who will be needed to carry out essential services and determine if those services can be accomplished at home (by computer, through emails, conference calls, using Skype, etc.) or by staggering work schedules and locations and using social distancing measures. Essential personnel who report to work during a school closure should take precautions; Social distancing, and/or wear PPE as recommended by DPH.

Learning at Home: To help students stay educationally engaged while classes are canceled, CACS may provide a variety of Learning at Home resources for students. While not mandatory, we encourage parents and students to utilize these resources which would be provided in the event of a school cancellation. In addition, CACS has an online learning action plan that can be initiated in the event of extended school closures.

Staff Leave: In the event of school closures, information will be communicated to employees regarding the appropriate type of leave to be used.

## REOPENING SCHOOLS

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Our primary objective in the recovery phase is to restore the learning environment as soon as possible. Issues to consider include determining if schools need disinfection measures before reopening, staffing levels, and grief/mental health issues. The Superintendent's office may also need to develop a plan for students/staff to make up for lost school days.

As the district resumes normal operation, it will remain in contact with DPH regarding disease surveillance. An infectious disease outbreak often comes in waves and the response and recovery process may be repeated several times.

Disinfection: Disinfection needs will depend primarily on the severity, type, and duration of the pandemic. Viruses can live an extended time outside the human body on nonporous surfaces such as plastic, metal or wood (depending on the virus). Guidance will be obtained from DPH regarding our cleaning policies and practices.

Personnel: If there are multiple staff absences due to an infectious disease outbreak, a plan will be formulated to continue instructional programs and operations within the district.

Mental health issues: Depending on the severity of the outbreak, we will use or modify our Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) protocols and/or collaborate with local mental health partners to assist with providing students and staff with the appropriate support.

Making up school days: The Superintendent's office will collaborate with the Georgia Department of Education to develop a plan for making up lost school days, if needed.

### Concept of Operations

The **Macon-Bibb County Health Department** will be the lead agency in coordinating the local health and medical response to an epidemic or pandemic with state, federal, and local agencies, and officials.

The school will maintain increased communications with **Macon-Bibb County Health Department**, which will then provide information to the County Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to implement those procedures that increase the health and safety of the school community.

The school assumes the following responsibilities:

- Develop capabilities to implement non-medical measures to decrease the spread of disease throughout the school community as guided by the epidemiology of the pandemic and the **Macon-Bibb County Health Department**.
- Identify chain of command in case of illness with a minimum of two back-ups for key administrators.
- Develop plans to communicate regularly about the status of the situation and provide guidance throughout the duration of the pandemic outbreak.
- Develop and implement pandemic preparedness activities and a business continuity plan aimed at maintaining the provision of educational services and limiting the spread of disease throughout the duration of the pandemic outbreak.
- Review sick leave policies and make adjustments as necessary to ensure non-punitive policies are in place.
- Review policies regarding quarantines and pay continuation and make adjustments as necessary.
- Communicate with and educate the school community and parents about approved public health practices and what each person can do to prepare or respond to minimize health risks.
- Develop and implement educational support plans for students who are isolated or quarantined and coordinate these plans with the social support plans developed by the Macon-Bibb County Health Department and the Georgia Department of Education.
- Develop a recovery plan that provides for education support and emotional support for staff and students. If there is loss of life, implement procedures located in the School's Emergency Operations Plan.
- If needed, implement the School Crisis Response and Recovery Plan and activate Crisis Intervention Teams.
- Document all actions taken.

CACS assumes the following responsibilities:

- Identify chain of command in case of illness with a minimum of two back-ups for key administrators.

- Review best practices for respiratory hygiene and universal precautions and train all school staff, volunteers and students.
- Identify and procure needed resources.
- Review procedures for sending ill individuals' home and make adjustments, if necessary.
- Establish and implement surveillance process to report the number of absent staff and students due to communicable diseases.
- Document all actions taken.
- Update staff and provide information on extent of infection at school site and potential changes that might take place at school.
- Follow school recovery plan that provides for education support and emotional support for staff and students.
- Maintain communications with Administrative Office and Parent/ Community to update the status.

### Exclusion Guidelines

The decision to exclude students who have an infectious disease from school should be made in conjunction with the school nurse, the State or local public health agency, health care professionals, and/or parents/guardians. These guidelines contain exclusion recommendations for each disease or condition. Students should be allowed to return to school once the exclusion period is met or a healthcare provider clears the student.

Generally, if any of the following conditions apply, exclusion from school should be considered:

- If the student does not feel well enough to participate comfortably in usual activities, it may be recommended that he/she stay or return home until feeling well.
- If the student requires more care due to illness than school personnel are able to provide.
- If the student has a high fever, behavior changes, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, lack of energy, uncontrolled coughing, or other signs suggesting a severe illness.
- If the student is ill with a potentially contagious illness and exclusion is recommended by a health care provider, the State or local public health agency, or these guidelines.

In cases where unvaccinated students are exposed to a vaccine preventable disease (such as measles, mumps, rubella, and pertussis), the State or local public health agency should be consulted in order to determine if exclusion of unvaccinated students is necessary.

If school personnel become ill with an infectious disease, the affected staff member should consult with a health care provider to determine if they can work. If ill with diarrhea or vomiting, school personnel should not work until the illness is over. This is especially important for staff who work in the cafeteria or handle food in any manner. A letter from the health care provider/physician may be required to return to work.

### Social Distancing

Social distancing strategies are non-medical measures intended to reduce the spread of disease from person-to-person by discouraging or preventing people from coming in close contact with each other. These strategies include closing schools and public assemblies, cancelling athletic activities and social events, closing non-essential agency functions, implementing emergency staffing plans, increasing telecommuting and flexible scheduling and other options.

### Quarantine

Quarantine is the physical separation and restriction of movement of individuals, families groups and communities who, though not ill, have been exposed to a contagious disease. Quarantine may be required to prevent the spread of infectious disease that may be transmitted to other individuals before illness develops or is recognized. Quarantines may be done at home or in a restricted area, depending on the specific nature of the infectious agent.

### Isolation

Isolation applies to persons who are ill with a contagious disease. Isolation is the physical separation and restriction of movement of an individual who is ill or is suspected of having an infectious illness from those who are not ill and have not been exposed to the contagion. Isolation may be required if medically necessary and reasonable to treat, prevent, or reduce the spread of the disease. Individuals may be isolated in a health care facility, the individual's home, or a non-health facility.

## Communications

Communications with the public and health care providers will be one of the most critical strategies for containing the spread of the infectious disease and for managing the utilization of health care services. This plan's communications goals are to:

1. Provide accurate, consistent, and comprehensive information about the infectious disease, including case definitions, symptom management, treatment options, infection control measures, and reporting requirements.
2. Instill and maintain public confidence in the schools and the County's public health care systems and their ability to respond to and manage an emerging infectious disease environment.
3. Ensure an efficient mechanism for managing information between Macon-Bibb County Health Department, emergency response agencies, health system partners and the schools.
4. Contribute to maintaining order, minimizing public panic and fear, and facilitating public compliance by providing accurate, rapid, and complete information.
5. Address rumors, inaccuracies, and misperceptions as quickly as possible, and prevent the stigmatization of affected groups.
6. Ensure that all information release to the public is provided through the School Public Information Officer as identified in the School Emergency Operations Plan.

## Reporting Requirements

Individuals treating or having knowledge of a reportable disease, whether the disease is suspected or confirmed, should report the case to the State or local public health agency. In most cases, health care providers or laboratories report diseases. In certain circumstances, school nurses and personnel should

report diseases, such as when a student is suspected of having measles, chickenpox, a serious infectious disease, or when an outbreak occurs. It is important to remember that only qualified health care providers can diagnose an illness.

Regarding confidentiality, the Family Rights and Privacy Act prohibits sharing of health-related information except in certain well-defined circumstances, including, but not limited to specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes, and appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies. Notifying the State or local public health agency of a reportable disease does not breach confidentiality laws.

When a case is reported, public health agencies may conduct an investigation to confirm the diagnosis, treatment, and cause of the illness, and determine the appropriate methods of disease control. Group outbreaks resulting from any cause, including foodborne outbreaks, must be reported to the State or local public health agency within 24 hours. In an outbreak situation, the goal of the public health agency is to assist the school in preventing further spread of the illness and to try to determine the cause of the outbreak.

To report a disease or outbreak, contact the [Macon-Bibb County Health Department](#) at (478) 745-0411

To the extent the following information is available, it should be reported when contacting the Public Health Department:

- Patient's name
- Diagnosis
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Ethnicity
- Address
- Phone number
- Name and address of the responsible health care provider
- Pertinent laboratory test results (if applicable)

## RECOVERY

School recovery from the spread of an infectious disease will begin when school officials receive notice from the Macon-Bibb County Health Department that school may resume normal operations. The School Administrator will determine if normal supplies, resources, and response systems are adequate to manage ongoing school activities.

In consultation with Macon-Bibb County Health Department, the School Administration will recommend specific actions to be taken to return the schools to pre-event status.

The School will:

- Assess the economic and educational impact of the infectious disease on the schools.
- Evaluate the response actions taken by the school as a result of the infectious disease
- Determine effectiveness of existing plan to respond to similar events in the future.
- Revise existing plan as necessary to address any deficiencies.

### After Action Review

- Implement sanitization and disinfection procedures
- Deploy solid waste disposal plans
- Review processes and incident communication protocols
- Review impact on the school and community
- Evaluate lessons learned
- Review and revise procedures, as needed
- Retrain staff

### Document Archive

Maintain all information for the current year and the three prior years:

- Reports provided to the local Public Health Department or other government agencies
  - o Attendance rosters of affected classrooms or school
  - o Reports from students and staff with symptoms of illness
  - o Reports showing what materials were provided to families and staff
  - o Actions taken by nurses, teachers, office staff and school administrators
    - □ Protective eyewear or masks should be worn in situations where it is possible body fluids could come in contact with eyes or mouth.
  - o Cleaning:
    - □ Blood or body spills are to be wiped up as soon as possible. Spills are to be double bagged and disposed of in trash.
    - □ The area is to be cleaned with an approved disinfectant or bleach solution.
    - □ All soiled clothing should be double bagged and sent home with person.
- Immunizations:
  - o The state health regulations require students attending school to be up to date on all immunizations.
  - o A notarized waiver is required for a valid exemption (medical, religious, or personal exemption).
  - o The school will keep documentation of the immunization status of all students on file.
  - o If a reportable communicable disease is known, parents of students without that vaccine will be notified to check with their doctor regarding exclusion from school for a designated time.