

August 2011

Dear 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).

Since the 2009-2010 school year it has been possible to report communicable diseases electronically on the OCHD Health and Human Services Communication Portal. Feedback from schools using the electronic format has been positive. Experience with the Portal has shown that 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. Please check our website for updated forms and information regularly.

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 an area not visible to staff or the public.


Please Note:

- Several changes have been made to the Communicable Disease Reference chart. Please refer to this year's version and discard earlier versions.
- Students with **Rash Illness with Fever** should be reported by name.
- Names of children who have **Chickenpox** need to be reported.
- 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.
- 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**".
- Children who have **Influenza** do not need to be reported by name however, the number of children with influenza should be reported as a total number for the week.

As always, please report any serious communicable diseases, any unusual occurrence or outbreak 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 collaboration with us on this matter. We really do look forward to your weekly reports!

Oakland County Health Division
Department of Health and Human Services

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard W. Renas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Richard W. Renas, M.P.H.
Epidemiologist