

Respiratory Illness Outbreak and Gastrointestinal Illness (GI) Outbreak Reporting for K-12 Schools



New reporting system

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, K-12 schools will use a REDCap survey:

[Respiratory Illness and Gastrointestinal Illness Outbreak Reporting](https://redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=MJEJYFFCKNLD4N4C)

(<https://redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=MJEJYFFCKNLD4N4C>) to notify the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) of respiratory illness and/or GI illness outbreaks at their school. This combined illness reporting survey will take the place of the existing reporting methods for COVID-19 and influenza.

Combined illness reporting

This new reporting system combines reporting for a variety of illnesses including COVID-19, influenza, RSV, and norovirus into one single report form.

The goal of the combined illness reporting system is to lessen the burden on reporters. Recognizing that COVID-19 continues to evolve and circulate with other respiratory illnesses, combining the reporting for multiple respiratory illnesses under one threshold will allow MDH to monitor overall respiratory illness trends in school settings.

When filling out the form, reporters may choose to complete only the respiratory illness section, only the GI section, or both. It depends on what sort of illness is occurring at the school at the time of the report. Reporters may also request technical assistance from MDH if they have questions or concerns regarding the respiratory and/or GI illness at their school.

When to report

- For respiratory illness, K-12 schools should report via the REDCap survey when 10% of their student population is absent from school on a given day with respiratory illness symptoms and/or a respiratory illness diagnosis.
- For gastrointestinal illness, K-12 schools should report via the REDCap survey when the number of students absent with GI illness exceeds the school's established baseline (e.g., double the number of absences due to GI symptoms).

RESPIRATORY ILLNESS OUTBREAK AND GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESS (GI) OUTBREAK
REPORTING FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

Resources

- [Schools and Child Care COVID-19 Best Practice Recommendations and Case Reporting
\(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/plan.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/plan.html)
- [School Health Personnel Influenza Information
\(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/flu/school/index.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/flu/school/index.html)
- [Outbreaks at Schools, Child Care, and Long-term Care Facilities
\(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/foodborne/outbreak/facility/index.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/foodborne/outbreak/facility/index.html)

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5414.