



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TO: Child Day Care Center Licensees

FROM: Matthew L. Cartter, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Cartter".

SUBJECT: Disease Reporting and Child Day Care Centers

Under Section 19a-36-A3 of the Public Health Code of the State of Connecticut, **the person in charge of any child day care center is required to report, if known, certain contagious diseases to local health officials.** These diseases are listed on the Reportable Disease List found in the January issue of the Connecticut Epidemiologist Newsletter: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Epidemiology-and-Emerging-Infections/The-Connecticut-Epidemiologist-Newsletter>.

Section 19a-79-5a(a)(3)(C) of the Regulations that govern child day care centers and group day care homes also require that licensees report each case occurring within their day care to the Department within 24 hours of the occurrence. In addition, to help prevent the spread of *E. coli* 0157:H7 and other Shiga toxin-related gastroenteritis and *Shigella* infections, any child day care attendee with bloody diarrhea should also be reported.

When a disease of public health importance in a child day care setting is reported to the local health department, the local health department will investigate the situation. Specific prevention and control measures will be recommended to reduce the spread of disease to others. These measures may require the cooperation of parents, day care attendees and medical consultants and may include:

- Notification of parents;
- Implementation of appropriate preventive measures;
- Exclusion of affected children or staff;
- Collection of specimens, if necessary.

Timely reporting to local health officials is a critical part of the prevention and control of infectious diseases in a child day care setting. While health care providers and laboratories are also required to report these diseases, they often are not able to report whether or not the child affected attends day care. Hence, when you report, we often learn important new information.

If you have any questions about reporting, please feel free to call your local health department or the Department of Public Health, Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program at (860) 509-7994.