



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TO: Camp Administrators

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

SUBJECT: Reporting of Camp Outbreaks/Diseases

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

In a camp setting, the transmission of infectious diseases and outbreaks of infectious diseases do occur. Under Section 19a-36-A3 of the Public Health Code of the State of Connecticut, **the person in charge of any camp 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>. This list should be placed on a bulletin board in the camp infirmary.

Reporting to local health officials is a critical part of the prevention and control of infectious diseases in a camp setting. Timely public health intervention can reduce the spread of infection to other camp attendees and to the general community.

Outbreaks of infectious diseases are also reportable. Notifying the local health department when an outbreak is suspected can reduce the length of the outbreak and the amount of activity required to bring it under control. To help camp administrators in reporting suspected outbreaks, it is recommended that the following conditions be reported:

- An increase in the amount of diarrhea (above what would normally be expected) in camp attendees;
- Any camp attendee with bloody diarrhea;
- Respiratory illness affecting 25% of camp attendees at any time;
- Hospitalization of a camp attendee with a communicable disease.

When a disease of public health importance or an outbreak of illness in a camp 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, youth camp attendees and medical consultants and may include:



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

Controlling transmission of disease in camp settings can be accomplished through early detection and reporting. The persons in charge of a camp have the responsibility to notify public health officials when reportable diseases or outbreaks occur or are suspected. The local health department has the experience, expertise and responsibility to provide assistance to reduce the impact of preventable communicable diseases when they occur.

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