



# Department of Public Health and Human Services

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## Technical Guidance Regarding Official Rule Change

### Outbreaks in Congregate Settings

The department is proposing this new rule as part of a comprehensive effort to expand outbreak reporting in settings that are more likely to experience spread of infectious disease. The inclusion of this rule would allow health departments to better respond to infectious disease outbreaks and recommend appropriate control measures to stop the spread of illness.

37.114.203 REPORTABLE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS (1) The following communicable diseases and conditions are reportable:

~~(bp) Any unusual incident of unexplained illness or death in a human or animal with potential human health implications.~~

2. Also reportable is an outbreak of any communicable disease listed in the "Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, an Official Report of the American Public Health Association" (20th edition, 2015) in an institutional or congregate setting and any unusual incident of unexplained illness or death in a human or animal with potential human health implications.

Rule changes in 37.114.204 pertain to the language change in 37.114.203 (see above). An outbreak of any of the reportable conditions and/or an outbreak of any communicable disease listed in CCDM in congregate settings must be reported to the department within 24 hours, as previously required for gastroenteritis outbreaks only.

### 37.114.204 REPORTS AND REPORT DEADLINES

(2) A local health officer must transmit by telephone or secure electronic means to the department the information required by ARM 37.114.205(1) and (2) for each suspected or confirmed case of one of the following diseases, within the time limit noted for each:

(a) Information about a case of one of the following diseases should be submitted within 24 hours after it is received by the local health officer:

(i) an outbreak of a disease or condition specified in ARM 37.114.203;

(ii) any unusual incident of illness or death in a human or animal with potential human health implications;

As before, infection control measures should be applied to any outbreak. This new rule complements the previous rule pertaining to gastroenteritis outbreaks only. The function behind this rule remains unchanged.

NEW RULE I OUTBREAK IN AN INSTITUTIONAL OR CONGREGATE

SETTING (1) Infection control precautions must be employed until laboratory tests indicate what organism is responsible for the outbreak, after which, control measures must be taken which are specific for the organism in question.

**Communicable Diseases  
Reportable in a Congregate Setting**

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In addition to the conditions listed in 37.114.203 (1)

(2) Also reportable is an *outbreak of any communicable disease listed in the "Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, an Official Report of the American Public Health Association" (20th edition, 2015) in an institutional or congregate setting* and any unusual incident of unexplained illness or death in a human or animal with potential human health implications.

*The list below reflects the conditions listed in the CCDM referenced above that are reportable if an outbreak in a congregate setting is identified.*

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