

# SCHOOL ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE

ANALYZING STUDENT ILLNESS DATA IS A PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

## ROLE OF THE PARENTS

- Inform school if child has symptoms of influenza-like illness (ILI) or gastrointestinal illness (GI)
- Keep sick kids at home to reduce spread of illness

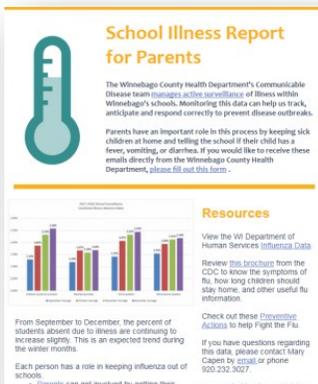


## ROLE OF THE SCHOOLS

- Encourage parents to specify symptoms due to ILI or GI
- Input information on student illness into a shared database each day
- Share public health educational messaging with staff, students and parents

## ROLE OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Communicate with schools regarding illness trends and resources for the prevention/spread of disease
- Analyze health data on a daily basis to determine if there are concerns with the percent of students ill with ILI or GI symptoms
- Conduct follow-up by interviewing schools for further information
- Provide resources to help prevent or minimize outbreaks
- Provide monthly reports for staff and parents to increase awareness and education about seasonal trends
- Provide guidance on disease control measures, such as proper cleaning techniques and how long sick students should remain at home



## BENEFITS OF SCHOOL ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE

- Minimize the occurrence and/or impact of outbreaks
- Reduce the spread of illness to school staff, students, and parents
- Provide health experts real-time data on what's happening in the community to better respond
- Expand collaboration between schools and the health department

WCHD partners **38** with (and counting) schools to gather ILI and GI surveillance data.



**Public Health**  
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