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** NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

Gastrointestinal illness, Measles and FDA recall of infant formula

Gastrointestinal illness reported in Thurston County

Actions Requested:

- Consider a diagnosis of Norovirus in evaluation of gastroenteritis with symptoms including nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramping and/or diarrhea.
- Inquire about participation in group settings such as school, daycare, group homes, shelters, and long-term care facilities. Advise individuals who reside in or attend such facilities to quarantine until 48 hours after the resolution of all symptoms.
- Educate patients about hand hygiene, encouraging individuals to use soap and warm water when able. Instruct individuals to use a 10% bleach solution to disinfect high touch surfaces, including but not limited to, bathroom fixtures, doorknobs, eating surfaces and kitchen fixtures.
- Test for Norovirus and other GI infectious diseases in the case of severe illness or blood in the stool. COVID-19 can also present with gastrointestinal symptoms and should be considered and ruled out.
- Report all suspected Norovirus outbreaks to Thurston County Public Health and Social Services immediately. Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department. Monday through Friday calls can be made to the Communicable Disease Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. On the weekend calls can be made to the afterhours reporting line at 1-800-986-9050.

Background:

Thurston County Public Health has received multiple reports of outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness consistent with norovirus in the school setting over the past two weeks. In the absence of lab testing, the updated Kaplan criteria has been used to identify outbreaks. The updated Kaplan criteria for Norovirus is as follows:

- A greater proportion of cases with vomiting than with fever,
- Bloody diarrhea in less than 10% of cases, and
- Vomiting in greater than 25% of cases.

Norovirus causes acute gastroenteritis in humans characterized by nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. The incubation period for Norovirus ranges from 12 to 48 hours. Symptoms typically start abruptly, and usually last only one to two days. Norovirus is present in the feces and emesis of an infected person. People are most contagious from the

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onset of symptoms until diarrhea and emesis subside. Viral shedding can continue for two or more days after the symptoms are gone. With an infective dose of fewer than 10 viral particles, the disease spreads easily from person-to-person, and through contaminated food, water or items contaminated by feces or emesis.

Norovirus is not vaccine preventable and there are no anti-viral medications for treatment. Supportive therapy may be indicated for individuals, typically consisting of fluid and electrolyte replacement for people suffering from severe illness. Strict attention to hand washing and infection control measures are indicated to prevent the spread of Norovirus. People suffering from suspected Norovirus should quarantine for 48 hours after the resolution of symptoms.

Measles

Actions Requested:

Have a high index of suspicion for measles when evaluating individuals with fever and rash.

The clinical case definition of measles is:

- a fever of 101° F or greater; AND
- a generalized red rash lasting longer than three days; AND
- one of the following: cough, coryza, conjunctivitis.

Laboratory diagnosis is via detection of anti-measles IgM in serum and detection of virus by PCR and/or culture of a nasopharyngeal swab and urine. Specimen should be sent to the Washington State Public Health Laboratory. Contact Thurston County Public Health and Social Services during business hours M-F 8am-5pm calls can be made to the Communicable Disease Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. On the weekend and after hours calls can be made to the afterhours reporting line at 1-800-986-9050 for coordination of testing among suspected cases through the Washington State Public Health Laboratory. The Lab Test Menu for the Washington State Public Health Laboratory can be found here <https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-healthcare-providers/public-health-laboratories/lab-test-menu>

Follow airborne and droplet precautions for suspected cases.

Advise suspect cases to isolate at home for the duration of the infectious period for measles. In general, immunocompetent individuals with measles are infectious for 4 days prior to rash and for 4 days after the rash appears. Immunocompromised individuals may be infectious for the entire duration of illness. Check immunity status of household members detailed below.

Measles is an **immediately** notifiable condition. Report all confirmed and probable cases of measles to Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department. During business hours M-F 8am-5pm calls can be made to the Communicable Disease Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. On the weekend and after hours calls can be made to the afterhours reporting line at 1-800-986-9050 for coordination of testing among suspected cases through the Washington State Public Health Laboratory.

Please see attached Measles Assessment Quicksheet for Providers.

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Background:

A confirmed case of measles has been reported in an infant from Snohomish County. Confirmation came in February 21. Before the infant was diagnosed, others may have been exposed in the following locations: Sea-Tac Airport on February 19 between 11:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. and Seattle Children’s Hospital, Emergency Room Lobby, 4800 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, on February 20 from 12:34 a.m. – 2:49 a.m. The maximum surveillance incubation period of 21 days would end March 12.

Measles is characterized by a generalized maculopapular rash, fever, and one or more of the following: cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis. Measles has a distinct prodrome that begins with fever and malaise. Additional symptoms can be conjunctivitis, coryza (sneezing, nasal congestion, and nasal discharge), cough, photophobia, and Koplik’s spots (bluish-white specks on a rose-red background appearing on the buccal and labial (lip) mucosa usually opposite the molars). The time from exposure to onset of fever ranges from 7–18 days (average 10 days), with the rash onset usually occurring within 2–4 days after the first symptoms appear and up to 21 days after the exposure. Temperatures may exceed 40°C (104°F), and usually fall 2–3 days after rash onset. The rash is maculopapular and begins on the head often along the hairline and spreads downward reaching the hands and feet. The contagious period for measles is from 4 days prior to rash through 4 days after rash onset. Immunocompromised individuals may be infectious for the entire duration of illness.

People at highest risk from exposure to measles include those who are unvaccinated, pregnant women, infants under six months of age and those with weakened immune systems. A person is considered immune to measles if any of the following apply:

- They were born before 1957
- They have had a blood test result that shows immunity to measles
- They have previously had measles diagnosed by a healthcare provider
- They are up-to-date on measles vaccines (one dose for children age 12 months through three years old, two doses in anyone four years and older).

FDA Formula Recall

Three brands of powdered infant formula were recalled on February 17, 2022, for possible contamination with Cronobacter and Salmonella Newport. FDA is investigating several consumer complaints about sick infants who were fed powdered formula.

Recalled powdered infant formulas are Similac, Alimentum, and EleCare. Individuals are advised not to use these brands if they meet all 3 of these conditions:

First two digits are 22 through 37, AND

Code on the container contains “K8,” “SH,” or “Z2,” AND

Use-by date is 4-1-2022 (APR 2022) or later

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SECTION
THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
412 LILLY RD NE
OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132
DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470



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Individuals are advised not to feed infants recalled powdered formula. Individuals with recalled formula in their possession should throw it away or return it for a refund.

Labs that isolate suspect *Cronobacter sakazakii* (formerly *Enterobacter sakazakii*) from a patient <2 years of age since September 2020, are requested to submit isolates to the Enterics section of the Washington Public Health Laboratories. Please use the Microbiology Submission form which can be found here:

<https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/5230//302-013-Micro.pdf>

To date, this investigation has been associated with four illnesses (three for *Cronobacter* and one for *Salmonella*) spanning the following states: MN, OH and TX. All four cases related to these complaints were hospitalized and *Cronobacter* may have contributed to a death in one case.

More information can be found on the Food and Drug Administration website at: [FDA Warns Consumers Not to Use Certain Powdered Infant Formula Produced in Abbott Nutrition's Facility in Sturgis, Michigan | FDA](#)

RESOURCES:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention Norovirus: [Norovirus | CDC](#)

Center for Disease Control Prevention Norovirus Outbreak Kaplan Criteria:

<https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/trends-outbreaks/responding.html>

Washington State Department of Health Norovirus:

<https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/illness-and-disease-z/norovirus>

Washington State Department of Health – Measles Resources:

<https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-healthcare-providers/notifiable-conditions/measles>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Measles (Rubeola) For Health Care Providers: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/index.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - *Cronobacter* Infection and Infants: [Cronobacter Infection and Infants | Cronobacter Infection and Infants | CDC](#)

THANK YOU FOR REPORTING

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TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
Day time immediately reportable conditions – Call detailed information to the 24-hour Notifiable Condition Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. Messages are picked up hourly. If a call back can't wait call 360-867-2500 and ask staff to locate a Communicable Disease staff.	Phone: 360-786-5470
After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable	1-877-539-4344

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at: <http://bit.ly/CDUpdatePHSS>