

October 1, 2025

Dear Snohomish County School Nurse or Administrator:

For many years the Snohomish County Health Department, has been conducting enhanced disease surveillance in the school system. Monitoring school absenteeism due to **illness** is a critical part of tracking disease in Snohomish County. Reporting illness allows us to provide proper public health response and assistance. Early detection through surveillance will help control the further spread of illness in our community. All >10% illness absenteeism reports are used as part of our influenza surveillance. You can review all respiratory illness surveillance data on our [dashboards](#).

The general guideline for reporting illness in the school settings is as follows:

Notify Snohomish County Health Department if greater than 10% of the total school population is absent due to unexpected illness.

Reporting is also in compliance with WACs 246-101-420 and 246-101-525. WAC 246-101-420 states that a school shall report disease that may be associated with the school, and WAC 246-101-525 requires reporting significant increases in school absenteeism resulting from influenza-like illness.

I have enclosed a copy of the reporting form with this information packet. Your report may be faxed or emailed to the Communicable Disease Epidemiologist at Snohomish County Health Department (see form for contact information).

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued participation in this program.

Regards,

Hollianne Bruce, MPH
Lead Epidemiologist – Epidemiology & Informatics
Phone: 425-339-5213
Fax: 425-339-8726
Email: hollianne.bruce@co.snohomish.wa.us