

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES  
BUREAU OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES  
# SP-065-PHS-EDC**

**INTERPRETATION OF “OUTBREAK” IN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOLS,  
CHILD CARE ESTABLISHMENTS, AND SHELTERS**

*This substantive policy statement is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes Section 41-1033 for a review of the statement.*

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The purpose of this substantive policy statement is to notify the public how the Arizona Department of Health Services (Department) interprets the term “outbreak” in reference to the reporting requirements in Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R9-6-203 and Table 2 for schools, child care establishments (CCEs), and shelters.

“Outbreak” is defined in A.A.C. R9-6-101(58) to mean “an unexpected increase in incidence of a disease, infestation, or sign or symptom of illness.”

A.A.C. R9-6-203(A) states:

An administrator of a school, child care establishment, or shelter shall, either personally or through a representative, report a case, suspect case, or outbreak listed in Table 2 to the local health agency within the time limitation and as specified in Table 2 and subsection (B).

Table 2 lists those diseases and occurrences for which reporting is required and provides time limitations for reporting for each. Table 2 requires outbreak reporting for acute conjunctivitis; diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting; scabies; and streptococcal Group A infection within 24 hours after an outbreak is detected. The Department’s interpretation of “outbreak” as related to each disease or condition for which outbreak reporting is required is provided at: <http://azdhs.gov/phs/oids/epi/pdf/investigation-management/outbreak-threshold-guide-schools.pdf>.

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