



## GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PERSONAL HEALTH NURSE DIVISION  
2325 Garfield Road North  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
Phone: 231-4831 fax: 231-922-2719  
[www.gtchd.org](http://www.gtchd.org)

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### **Important Notice to Parents From the Grand Traverse County Health Department Reporting Student Illness**

The Grand Traverse County Health Department is working directly with your child's school to make Grand Traverse County a healthier place to live. The State of Michigan requires schools to report the possible occurrence of any communicable disease to the local public health department on a weekly basis (Public Act 368 or 1978). Schools are required to report communicable diseases to help the Health Department assess for unusual illness, increased frequency of illness, and clusters of illness in the school community. With potential outbreaks of H1N1 Swine Flu predicted for this upcoming school year, reporting of illness will be very important in tracking this disease in our community. Some examples of illnesses that we track include influenza, whooping cough (pertussis) and chicken pox. In some cases, the Health Department Communicable Disease staff may confidentially contact you for further information.

To assist your child's school in reporting possible communicable diseases to the Health Department and prevent the spread of illness, **please be as specific as possible when reporting your child's absence due to illness.**

When calling in for a child, please include the following information:

1. A description of the **symptoms** of the illness (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, etc.) and report the type of disease **if known** and who diagnosed the illness (parent or physician)
2. Your phone number at home or work

Thank you for your participation in this important health activity. You are a vital link in the gathering of information regarding the health of our school community. Your cooperation with your school and the Grand Traverse County Health Department is greatly appreciated.

If you have questions or feedback about this reporting program, please contact the Grand Traverse County Health Department Communicable Disease line at 231-922-2718.