

Parent letters may be used to notify parents/guardians about a possible exposure to a non-reportable communicable disease or parasite. They provide information about communicable diseases commonly seen in school and childcare. They are meant to keep the channels of communication open and alert parents/guardians to a potential health problem and advise them what to do. You may use the letters “as is” or reproduce them with your own letterhead and signature.

These parent letters will be reviewed on an annual basis and updated as needed (note bottom date on each letter). Check with Tacoma-Pierce County Health Departments’ school or childcare health programs for revised materials by calling **(253) 798-6410** and press “0”. Additional parent letters may be developed based on needs. Currently, parent letters are available for the following diseases and parasites.

- *C difficile* (Infectious Diarrhea) ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Chickenpox ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Colds ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Croup ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Fifth disease ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Flu (Influenza) ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Lice ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Mononucleosis ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Pinkeye ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Ringworm ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- RSV ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Scabies ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Strep/Scarlet fever ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Viral Gastroenteritis ([English](#), [Spanish](#))

Fact Sheets

- [Childcare and School Exclusions](#)
- [When to keep your child at home](#)

Parental Notification

Childcare: Per Washington Administrative Code (WAC) and licensing regulations, childcare centers must notify parents in writing when their children have been exposed to infectious diseases or parasites. The notification may consist of either a letter to parents or posting a notification for parents in a visible location.

Schools: Per WAC, schools must consult with a health care provider or the local health department for information about the control and prevention of infectious or communicable disease, as necessary. With non-reportable communicable diseases, we don’t generally recommend notifying parents of a potential exposure unless there is an “outbreak” which is defined as 10% or more of students/staff affected in a single classroom, although extenuating circumstances may need to be considered. Parents in the affected classroom(s) would be notified, not the entire school. Notify the local health department of outbreaks or suspected outbreaks of a contagious disease.

For more information on communicable diseases in schools and childcare facilities, contact Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department at **(253) 798-6410** and press “0”.

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This letter is reviewed annually. Go to www.tpchd.org to receive the most up-to-date version.