

# **EXPOSURE CONTROL AND OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT**

**OUTBREAK**

State and local health departments are required by law to control certain contagious diseases. In child care settings, early recognition, reporting, and intervention will reduce the spread of infection. Outbreaks of communicable diseases in child care settings can result in spread to the general community. When a contagious disease of public health importance or an outbreak of illness in a child care setting is reported to the local or state health department, the health department will investigate the situation. Specific prevention and control measures will be recommended to reduce spread to others. These measures will require the cooperation of the parent/guardians, caregivers, children, health providers, and health consultants. In these situations, recommendations will be made by the health department regarding:

- notification of parents, guardians, caregivers, and health care providers of the problem
- identification of appropriate prevention measures
- policies for exclusion or isolation of infected children and/or staff
- collection of specimens, if necessary
- necessary antibiotics, vaccine, or immune globulin

Child care providers should be aware of the fact that these situations can be very stressful for everyone concerned. Cooperation and good communication help to relieve some of this stress. Notifying the health department as soon as an outbreak is suspected can reduce the length and severity of the outbreak.

## **WHERE TO REPORT:**



If you are in Douglas County, call the Douglas County Health Department at 444-7214. Outside Douglas County call your local or state health department.