

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



# COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

## Division of Environmental Health Services: (800) 442-2283

- 385 North Arrowhead Avenue – San Bernardino, CA 92415-0160
- 8575 Haven Avenue, Suite 130 – Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730-9105
- 15900 Smoke Tree, Suite 131 – Hesperia, CA 92345
- San Bernardino County Vector Control Program  
2355 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street – San Bernardino, CA 92410-5201

TRUDY RAYMUNDO  
Public Health Director

MAXWELL OHIKHUARE, M.D.  
Health Officer

CORWIN PORTER, MPH, R.E.H.S.  
Division Chief, Environmental Health Services

January 6, 2014

TO: San Bernardino County Camp Owners/Operators

SUBJECT: Prevention of Illness Outbreaks at Camps

This past year, Environmental Health Services (EHS) received several reports of illness outbreaks at organized camps. Illness outbreaks may be preventable with the proper precautions, including a mandatory health screening of campers and staff, hand washing, and other hygienic practices.

Pre-screening of campers and staff is critical to prevent an illness outbreak from starting. The required “Health Screening” shall be conducted by a qualified staff member for all campers under the age of 18 who are unaccompanied by a parent or guardian within 24 hours of arrival at camp and for all staff prior to the arrival of campers. Ideally, pre- screening of campers and staff should be done prior to arriving at camp to prevent the spread of illness. The screening should include the following inquiries:

1. Has the camper/staff exhibited symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea within the last 24 hours?
2. Does the camper/staff have an elevated temperature, over 100 °F?
3. Does the camper/staff display other transmissible conditions (lice, pink eye, etc.)
4. Has the camper/staff been recently exposed (within last 48 hours) to family members who have exhibited any symptoms or illness as described above? If so, these staff or campers can be monitored more closely at camp.

A sample health screening form has been included with this letter. Please contact us if you would like the form electronically.

It is extremely important that campers or staff members be prevented from coming to camp when ill. When a relatively large group of people are in close proximity to each other, like at camp, it provides the perfect environment for the spread of illness.

The spread of illness can be prevented through good hygienic practices. Encouraging staff and campers to thoroughly wash their hands, particularly after using the restroom, is essential.

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX  
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD.....First District      JAMES RAMOS.....Third District  
JANICE RUTHERFORD, CHAIR.....Second District      GARY C. OVITT.....Fourth District  
JOSIE GONZALES.....Fifth District

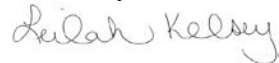
If an outbreak does occur, Title 17, California Code of Regulations Section 2500(b) and 30750(g) require that all occurrences of foodborne illness and/or any other reportable diseases be promptly reported to EHS. It is important that EHS is notified so assistance or intervention may take place. Reportable illnesses may include one or more of the following symptoms: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever. Reporting illnesses to EHS must occur when a higher than average number of campers exhibit common symptoms as listed above. Furthermore, code requires that medical log books be maintained onsite by the Health Supervisor in a bound book with sequentially numbered pages.

In case of an illness outbreak at camp, the following guidelines shall be followed:

- 1) Campers or staff members displaying any symptoms of illness must be immediately isolated and put under the care of the appointed Health Supervisor or qualified staff.
- 2) The camp shall contact EHS promptly to inform them of an illness outbreak and what steps have been taken to contain the outbreak.
- 3) Medical treatment shall be recorded in the log book by the health supervisor or qualified staff.
- 4) All pertinent documentation/records relating to campers and/or staff shall be maintained and made available to EHS upon request. This includes copies of the medical log book, contact information for the sick campers and staff and any other documentation that may be necessary to investigate the illness.
- 5) Meticulous cleaning and sanitizing procedures shall commence in areas where illness symptoms occurred. Proper protection shall be worn by staff performing these duties.
- 6) If necessary, the camp shall voluntarily close to prevent further progression of the outbreak.

To help remind your staff about the importance of preventing and reporting illnesses, a sign with EHS contact information and a handout about Norovirus for posting at the camp have been included with this letter. Please contact our office at (800) 442-2283 should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Leilah Kelsey  
Supervising Environmental Health Specialist  
Leilah.Kelsey@dph.sbounty.gov