

Communicable Disease Overview

A communicable disease is an illness that can be transmitted from person to person, animal to person, or inanimate object to person. **Examples** of communicable diseases include: [tuberculosis \(TB\)](#), [pertussis \(whooping cough\)](#), sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) like [Chlamydia](#) and [Gonorrhea](#), [E. coli O157:H7](#), [hepatitis B](#), [hepatitis C](#), [rabies](#), [tetanus](#), and [HIV/AIDS](#).



Mumps



Pertussis

[Click here to hear how pertussis sounds.](#)



Chicken Pox

The La Crosse County Health Department plays an important role in protecting our communities by detecting, preventing, and controlling communicable diseases. Public Health staff will:

- Investigate and follow-up on all [Reportable Communicable Diseases](#) and disease outbreaks in La Crosse County
- Educate the public and notify the public about disease outbreaks
- Assure treatment
- Monitor disease rates and trends
- Guide public and private strategies to prevent infections
- LCHD Public Health staff are required by state statute to keep this information confidential (they can't tell the public who you are) and remain professional when following up with disease outbreaks. Public health staff-persons are available to answer questions and to help guide you to recovery.
- For more information call 608-785-9723.

The duties of a local health officer and reporting of communicable diseases is explained in [Wisconsin State Statute 252.05](#) and [Wisconsin Administrative Code DHS 145](#). These laws are in effect to protect individuals and communities. Individuals that are required to report communicable diseases include: physicians, nurses, laboratory personnel, school and daycare personnel, and any others with knowledge of disease.