

# Outbreaks and Foodborne Illnesses

## OUTBREAKS

OUTBREAKS of ANY DISEASE are reportable to the Communicable Disease (CD) Unit. This is true whether or not the disease is a reportable condition. An outbreak is defined as the occurrence of a number of cases of a disease that is unusually large or unexpected for a given place and time. For example, a foodborne illness outbreak may be defined as an incident in which two or more persons experience a similar illness resulting from the ingestion of a common food, whereas an outbreak of smallpox is defined as one confirmed case. Outbreaks are often originate from a common food or water source, however person-to-person transmission of an illness can also result in an outbreak, as can exposure to common surfaces (e.g. pedicure spas). The aim in reporting outbreaks is to detect an outbreak as early as possible so as to control the spread of disease among the population at risk. Thus, even if you only suspect an outbreak, you should alert the CD Unit.

## WHERE TO REPORT

### Communicable Disease (CD) Unit

Phone: (831) 454 - 4114

Fax: (831) 454 - 5049

After Hours: (831) 471 - 1170

## FOODBORNE ILLNESS

If you are treating a patient or know someone who believes they became ill due to a food or drink item that they consumed, please refer that person to the Environmental Health Department so that the facility or item in question can be properly inspected. If you would like to contact someone immediately and it is not during normal business hours, please call the above CD Unit "After Hours" phone number and the Health Officer can be paged.

## WHERE TO REPORT

### Environmental Health Department

Hours: 8am – 5 pm weekdays

Phone: (831) 454 - 2022

Fax: (831) 454 - 3128