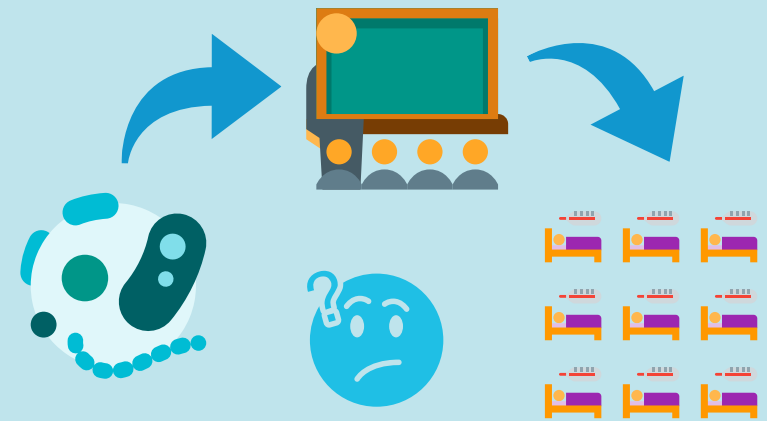


What is an outbreak?

Public health authorities define an outbreak as more cases of a particular disease or condition than expected over a given period of time OR a single unusual illness, or two or more cases of a specific illness (e.g., foodborne illness) with a suspected common exposure history. Defining an outbreak as multiple cases at the same time will not always be accurate. Here are some things to consider:



Pathogen-How does a person become infected? How severe is it?



Is it spread person-to-person through contact or coughing?



Do infections occur after an insect bite or contact with an animal?



Can it be found in contaminated food and water?



Can it be spread through contact with infected body fluids or on soiled surfaces?

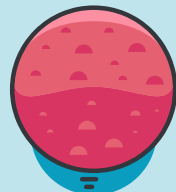
Are there times in the year that you would normally expect more cases? Would you expect to see any cases at all (like mumps, measles, etc.)?

OR

Are you seeing cases **OUTSIDE** of their normal seasons (i.e., flu in the summer)?



- Norovirus
- Influenza
- RSV



- Cryptosporidiosis
- Campylobacter
- Salmonella
- Norovirus



- Giardiasis
- *Campylobacter*
- *Salmonella*



- Enterovirus
- Common cold
- Influenza
- RSV



Can you link similar cases over the same place and time?

Have you observed spread of the illness over a single incubation period for a disease within a congregate setting such as a school, hospital, care facility, or correctional facility?
With diarrheal illnesses, did multiple people become ill at the same time?



If you notice increased disease activity, and you are not sure if it is an outbreak, contact your local health department for guidance.