



*Winnebago County Health Department Statement on Disease Investigations
October 14, 2014*

The Winnebago County Health Department conducts investigations of diseases on a daily basis. Reports are received from hospitals, clinics, primary care providers, and laboratories. In addition, surveillance is conducted through schools regarding illnesses and absenteeism, and also chief complaints from emergency department's visits. The investigation process includes a thorough health history and laboratory testing depending on the reportable disease or cluster of illness reported. These steps are conducted in order to accurately diagnosis, treat, and effectively contain the disease from spreading. As an investigation progresses, the suspected diagnosis is ruled out. As a local certified health department, we continue to keep in close contact with our surrounding medical providers, local health departments, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to investigate suspect cases of illness.