

## High Absenteeism Reporting Tool (>15%)

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When a potential outbreak, including those involving exposure to a communicable disease, toxic agent, environmental hazard, or a potential epidemic is identified, immediate notification to the Maine CDC should be made. One of the ways these outbreaks can be identified is through elevated school absenteeism.

Schools have long partnered with the Maine Center for Disease Control (MeCDC) to report elevated absentee rates (>15%). The Department of Education and MeCDC have collaborated to design this application in NEO to collect this information more efficiently. School nurses should have access to the reporting tool. If your school unit decides that it would be appropriate for another person to submit this report, you can contact the Help Desk to add users.

DOE Data Helpdesk page <http://www.maine.gov/doe/data/helpdesk.html>

This tool is very easy to use and will report high absentee rates to both DOE and CDC in one step. The CDC will follow up with the school nurse as needed.