



Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child may have been in contact with a person diagnosed with croup. Croup is an upper respiratory infection caused by viruses.

Symptoms of croup include a barking cough, hoarseness, and sometimes a fever and runny nose. These symptoms usually last less than a week. The viruses and bacteria that cause croup are generally spread by direct contact with a sick individual or by touching surfaces infected with the viruses or bacteria and then touching the mouth or nose. Outbreaks of croup tend to occur in the winter and early spring. The easiest way to prevent croup from spreading is by frequent and proper handwashing.

If your child has symptoms of croup, contact your health care provider. Please notify your child care provider after a diagnosis is made. The diagnosis of croup alone is not enough to exclude a child from child care. However, if a child has a fever and doesn't generally feel good, in addition to a barking cough, exclusion is recommended. You can contact the Snohomish Health District's Communicable Disease Outreach program at 425.339.5278 for assistance.

*This letter was printed from the Snohomish Health District's website. If your child's caregiver has provided you with this notice and you have additional questions, call Communicable Disease Outreach at 425.339.5278. This letter is reviewed annually. This document is not valid after 06/2012.*