



2096 Red Arrow Trail  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-275-6740

## Croup

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### Communicable Disease Exposure Notice

Dear Parents:

Your child may have been exposed to the communicable disease **Croup** in a Reach Dane/Reach Green classroom on the following date \_\_\_\_\_.

Please review the information below. If you have any questions, or if your child begins experiencing symptoms of the illness, contact your child's primary care provider or one of the agencies listed below.

Public Health – Madison & Dane County (608) 266-4821

Green County Health Department (608) 328-9390

#### **What is Croup?**

Croup is a common respiratory problem in young children. Its main symptom is a harsh, barking cough. An attack of croup can be scary, but it is rarely serious. Children usually get better in several days with rest and care at home.

Croup usually occurs a few days after the start of a cold and is usually caused by the same viruses that cause the common cold. The germs that cause it can be passed from one person to another through coughing, sneezing, and close contact.

#### **What are the symptoms of Croup?**

Symptoms of croup may include: A barking cough. The cough is often compared to the sound of a barking seal; a raspy, hoarse voice; a harsh noise when breathing in

Symptoms of croup often improve during the day and get worse at night. Sometimes children have croup attacks that wake them up in the middle of the night for a couple of nights in a row.

#### **How is Croup treated?**

The illness usually improves in 2 to 5 days. Treatment at home usually eases the symptoms of croup. Stay calm and soothe your child. Your child's crying can make the attack worse. Breathing in moist air helps (examples: steam from the shower or a humidifier). Be sure your child drinks plenty of liquids.



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If your child's symptoms do not get better after 30 minutes, medicines from the child's doctor may be needed. Because attacks often occur in the middle of the night when your doctor is not available, you may have to go to the emergency room