

Communicable Disease**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

School personnel are required to report diseases of public health importance to the Vermont Department of Health.

AUTHORIZATION/LEGAL REFERENCE:

18 V.S.A. Chapter 21 – Communicable diseases

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/18/021>

Subchapter 1: General Provisions

Subchapter 2: Tuberculosis

Subchapter 3: Venereal Diseases

Subchapter 4: Immunization

Vermont Education Quality Standards, Section 2121.5 Tiered System of Support (2014) (p. 14)

http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-FinalEQS_AsAdopted.pdf

Vermont Department of Health; Communicable Disease Regulations

- <http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/title/18>

- http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/reporting/disease_report.aspx

DEFINITION for this section of the Manual:

Communicable disease - An infectious or contagious disease that can be transmitted from one person to another by direct physical contact, infected airborne droplets, etc.

Department- Refers to the Vermont Department of Health, Division of Health Surveillance, Epidemiology

Nuisance condition - Nuisance-type conditions include: Pediculosis (lice), Scabies and Ringworm.

Reportable disease – List of communicable diseases defined by VDH that are required to be reported. Any unexpected pattern of cases, suspected cases, deaths or increased incidence of any other illness of major public health concern, because of the severity of illness or potential for epidemic spread, which may indicate a newly recognized infectious agent, an outbreak, epidemic, related public health hazard or act of bioterrorism.

REQUIRED SCHOOL NURSE/ASSOCIATE SCHOOL NURSE ROLE:

The law requires that health care providers report disease of public health importance. Persons who are required to report: health care providers, infection control practitioners, laboratory directors, nurse practitioners, nurses, physician assistants, physicians, school health officials. Cases of reportable diseases should be reported to the Department within 24 hours. Immediate notification is essential for diseases marked by a telephone symbol (☎).802-863-7240 and 1-800-640-4374

http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/reporting/documents/reportable_disease.pdf

SUGGESTED SCHOOL NURSE/ASSOCIATE SCHOOL NURSE ROLES:

Guide the establishment of the school district's written policies and procedures, which shall be developed in collaboration with parents and community health resources.

Be knowledgeable about current communicable disease regulations and control, current reportable diseases, and nuisance conditions. Maintain contact with local Vermont Department of Health.

Collaborate with health care providers on limitations for the child upon return to school.

Promote prevention and control through health education, staff in-services and by serving as a resource person to staff.

Provide health counseling to parents and guardians regarding appropriate treatment and follow-up. Refer to medical provider when indicated.

Notify school administrators in the event of a communicable disease/ conditions outbreak and follow guidelines established by the Vermont Department of Health regarding information and protocols.

Guide the establishment of the school district's written policies and procedures, related to nuisance conditions, i.e. Pediculosis, scabies, etc.

Document appropriate information in the student's record.

Develop and write policies and procedures in collaboration with school administration that include instruction for the first aid designee supervised by the school nurse on how to respond to questions related to communicable and reportable diseases, and nuisance conditions.

As required by OSHA, schools should train staff annually on Universal Precautions and new staff upon employment.

RESOURCES:

American Academy of Pediatrics. *Occupational Safety and Health Administration Compliance* - See more at: <https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-support/practice-management/Pages/Occupational-Safety-and-Health-Administration-Compliance.aspx#> (you may have to copy this link and paste it into your browser to open)

National Association of School Nurses. (2011). *Infectious Disease Management in the School Setting* (Position Statement). Retrieved from: <http://www.nasn.org/PolicyAdvocacy/PositionPapersandReports/NASNPositionStatementsFullView/tabid/462/smId/824/ArticleID/34/Default.aspx>

Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. (30th Ed.). (2015). (Eds.) David W. Kimberlin MD, FAAP and Sarah S. Long MD FAAP. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics.

Readiness and Emergency Management Systems: <http://rems.ed.gov/>

U.S. Department of Education Office of Safe and Healthy Students
Planning for the Expected: Infectious Diseases and All-Hazards Planning:
<http://rems.ed.gov/docs/repository/00000388.pdf>

Vermont Department of Health School Liaisons

http://www.healthvermont.gov/local/school/SchoolHealth-DO_Contact_Info.aspx

Vermont Department of Health, Division of Epidemiology -

http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/reporting/disease_report.aspx

- Consultation and Inquiries: 802-863-7240 (7:45 AM-4:30 PM M-F) or 1-800-640-4374 (VT only)
24 Hour Telephone Reporting Line for diseases marked for immediate notification: (802) 863-7240
or 1-888-588-7781/800-640-4374
Emergency Consultation after normal business hours also available at numbers above.

Vermont School Crisis Planning Guide: Infectious Disease

<http://vem.vermont.gov/sites/vem/files/Infectious%20Disease%20Incident%20Form12.xls>

SAMPLE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND FORMS:

American Academy of Pediatrics. *Occupational Safety and Health Administration Compliance: OSHA Requirements* <https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-support/practice-management/Pages/Occupational-Safety-and-Health-Administration-Compliance.aspx#>

U.S. Department of Labor

- *Bloodborne Pathogens*

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/hazards/bbp/bbp.html>

- *Employer Guidance Reducing All Workers' Exposures to Seasonal Flu Virus*

<https://www.osha.gov/dts/guidance/flu/nonhealthcare.html>

- *Universal Precautions*

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/hazards/bbp/bbp.html#Uprecautions>

(you may have to copy and paste this into your browser, to open)

Vermont Department of Health Reportable Diseases

http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/reporting/documents/reportable_disease.pdf

Vermont Department of Health Head Lice Recommendations

<http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/lice/headlice.aspx>

