

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 Agency of Education [https://education.vermont.gov/documents/educator-quality-licensing-](https://education.vermont.gov/documents/educator-quality-licensing-rules#page34)

[rules#page34](https://education.vermont.gov/documents/educator-quality-licensing-rules#page34) Rules Governing the Licensing of Educators and the Preparation of Educational Professionals–
School Nurse/Associate School Nurse Endorsement: 5440-65 School Nurse (Revised March 2017) (page 171); 5440-65A Associate School Nurse (Reviewed June 2017) (page 175)

Vermont Education Quality Standards, Section 2121.5 Tiered System of Support (2014) (p. 10)

<https://education.vermont.gov/vermont-schools/education-quality/education-quality-standards>

Vermont Department of Health; Communicable Disease Regulations

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 (See Resources below).

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 school nurse is responsible for monitoring students and staff with communicable diseases, including timely reporting to the Vermont Department of Health and for promoting disease prevention in the school community. This includes establishing a communicable disease reporting protocol to be used by school personnel when the school nurse is absent or unavailable.

The law requires that health care providers report diseases 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 (☎)

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.

http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2016/11/hs_orid_vt_reportable_disease.pdf

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL NURSE/ASSOCIATE SCHOOL NURSE ROLES:

- Be knowledgeable about current communicable disease regulations and control, current reportable diseases and nuisance conditions.
- Maintain contact with local Vermont Department of Health. Each Office of Local Health has a local contact number for disease reporting.
- Guide the establishment of the school district's written policies and procedures related to communicable diseases and nuisance conditions, which shall be developed in collaboration with families, school administration and community health resources. Include procedure for who will respond to questions about communicable diseases.
- These policies and procedures should 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.
- Promote prevention and control of communicable diseases and nuisance conditions through school community education, staff in-services, and by serving as a resource person to staff, students and families.
- Notify school administrators in the event of a communicable disease and follow guidelines established by the Vermont Department of Health regarding information and protocols.
- Collaborate with families, VDH Office of Local Health, and health care providers to develop and implement plans and accommodations for students returning to school.
- Provide health counseling to students and families regarding appropriate treatment and follow-up.
- Document appropriate information in student health record.
- Promote and assist school district compliance with OSHA requirements so that all staff can receive annual training on Universal Precautions and for new staff at start of employment.

RESOURCES:

American Academy of Pediatrics

Healthy Children for Families: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Head Lice; Pin worm; Ring worm, etc.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/>

Head Lice; Pubic Lice; Pin worm; Scabies, etc.

National Association of School Nurses:

Head Lice Management in the School Setting: <https://www.nasn.org/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-head-lice>

Head Lice: NASN Resources

<https://www.nasn.org/nasn-resources/practice-topics/head-lice>

Nursing Infection Control Education Network

<https://www.nasn.org/nasn/programs/educational-initiatives/nice>

Pontius, D.J. (2014) Demystifying Pediculosis: School Nurses Taking the Lead. *Continuing Nursing Education.*

Retrieved August 7, 2018: <https://www.pediatricnursing.net/ce/2016/article4005226235.pdf>

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/> (think Ebola, etc.)

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 - Locate School Liaisons through OLH numbers:

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/local>

Vermont Department of Health Immunization and Infectious Disease

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control>

Vermont Department of Health, Division of Epidemiology - Infectious Disease Reporting and Data

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

SAMPLE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND FORMS:

*American Academy of Pediatrics. (2017). *Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools: A Quick Reference Guide* (4th). Eds. Aronson, S. S., Shope, T. R.

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>

- *Healthcare Wide Hazards (Lack of) Universal Precautions*

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

Vermont School Crisis Planning Guide: Infectious Disease (pg. 87)

<http://schoolsafety.vermont.gov/sites/ssc/files/documents/SchoolSafetyPlanning/Vermont%20School%20Crisis%20Guide.pdf>

* Recommended