

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

School personnel are required to report diseases of public health importance to the Vermont Department of Health and to apply the recommended public health mitigation and recovery measures.

**AUTHORIZATION/LEGAL REFERENCE:**

18 V.S.A. Chapter 21 – [Communicable diseases](#)

Subchapter 1: General Provisions

Subchapter 2: Tuberculosis

Subchapter 3: Venereal Diseases

Subchapter 4: Immunization

29 CFR 1910.1030 – Bloodborne Pathogens - U.S. Department of Labor: Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=STANDARDS&p\\_id=10051](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10051)

42 CFR 493 Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments: Standards and Certification: Laboratory Requirements

<https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=1248e3189da5e5f936e55315402bc38b&node=pt42.5.493&rgn=div5>

1910.134(a)(1) CFR- Respiratory Protection Plan:

[https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_id=12716&p\\_table=standards](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_id=12716&p_table=standards)

Vermont Agency of Education –

[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 178)*; *5440-65A Associate School Nurse (Reviewed June 2017) (page 182)*  
Education Quality Standards, [Section 2121.5 Tiered System of Support](#) (p. 10)

Vermont Department of Health - [Communicable Disease Regulations](#)

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Communicable disease** - An illness due to the infectious agent or its toxic products which is transmitted directly or indirectly to a person from an infected person or animal, host, or vector, or through the inanimate environment.

**Nuisance condition** - Nuisance-type conditions include Pediculosis (lice), Scabies, and Ringworm (See Resources below).

**Reportable disease** – A list of communicable diseases, syndromes, and treatments that are required to be reported may be found [here](#). In addition to conditions on the list, 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, must be reported.

**Vaccine Preventable Infectious Disease** – A list of diseases that can be prevented by vaccinations can be found [here](#).

**REQUIRED SCHOOL NURSE/ASSOCIATE SCHOOL NURSE ROLE:**

- Monitor students and staff who may potentially have a communicable disease if in school while infectious. Document appropriate information accordingly.
- Promote disease prevention in the school community.
- Establish a communicable disease reporting protocol to be used by school personnel when the SN/ASN is absent or unavailable. This protocol should include the designation of persons responsible for reporting communicable disease to the Health Department within 24 hrs.
- Report cases of reportable diseases in students and staff to the Vermont Department of Health within 24 hours. Know how to contact the local Vermont Department of Health office; each Office of Local Health has a local contact number for disease reporting. Refer to the Vermont Department of Health's list of reportable diseases and provide immediate notification to the Department of Health for marked diseases.
  - Contact information for consultation and inquiries is 802-863-7240 (7:45 AM – 4:30 PM M-F) or 1-800-640-4374 (VT Only)
  - A 24-Hour Telephone Reporting Line for diseases marked for immediate notification is 802-863-7240 or 1-800-640-4374
  - [Emergency Consultation after normal business hours also available.](#)
  - In addition, paper reports can be faxed to the Epidemiology Program's confidential fax machine at 802-951-4061.
- Notify school administrators in the event of communicable disease and follow guidelines established by the Vermont Department of Health regarding information and protocols.
- Collaborate with families, the Health Department's Office of Local Health, and health care providers to develop and implement plans and accommodations for students returning to school after a communicable disease.

**RECOMMENDED SCHOOL NURSE/ASSOCIATE SCHOOL NURSE ROLES:**

- Maintain knowledge about current communicable disease regulations and control, current reportable diseases, and nuisance conditions.
- Assist in establishing school district's written policies and procedures related to communicable diseases and nuisance conditions in collaboration with families, school administration, and community health resources. Procedures shall include who will respond to questions about communicable diseases.
- Provide instruction and supervision to the school first aid designee on how to respond to questions related to reportable communicable 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.

- Provide health counseling to students and families regarding appropriate treatment and follow-up of communicable disease or nuisance conditions.
- Promote and assist school district compliance with OSHA requirements so that all staff can receive annual training on Universal Precautions and at the start of employment for new staff.
- Annually review the school or Local Education Agency's procedure for Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Waiver, which guides the quality standards for testing (e.g., blood glucose monitoring, urine testing).
- Annually review the school or Local Education Agency's procedure for Personal Protective Equipment, which includes a respiratory protection program if available.

**RESOURCES:**

## American Academy of Pediatrics

- Aronson, S. S., & Shope, T. R. (2020). *Managing infectious diseases in child care and schools: a quick reference guide*. American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Healthy Children for Families: Health Conditions: e.g., [Head Lice](#); [Pin worm](#); [Ring worm, etc.](#)

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- COVID-19
  - [Schools and Child Care](#)
  - [Infection Control Guidance for Healthcare Professionals about Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
  - [COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment Guidance](#)
- Parasites, e.g., [Head Lice](#); [Pubic Lice](#); [Pin worm](#); [Scabies, etc.](#)
- [Vaccine Preventable Diseases](#)

Kimberlin, D.W., Barnett, E.D., Lynfield, R., & Sawyer, M.H. (2021). *Red book: 2021 Report of the committee on infectious diseases* (32nd edition). American Academy of Pediatrics.

## National Association of School Nurses:

- [Head Lice Management in the School Setting](#)
- [Lice Lessons - National Association of School Nurses \(nasn.org\)](#)
- [Nursing Infection Control Education Network](#)

Readiness and Emergency Management Systems: [Building Blocks to School Safety: A Toolkit for Schools and Districts for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans](#)

U.S. Department of Education Office of Safe and Healthy Students: [Safe & Supportive Schools](#)

U.S. Food and Drug Administration - [CLIA Waiver by Application](#)

## Vermont Department of Health

- [CHILD CARE, SCHOOL, & COLLEGE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS](#)
- [CLIA Waivers](#)
- [Locate School Liaisons through Office of Local Health numbers](#)
- [Immunization and Infectious Disease](#)

- [Infectious Disease Reporting and Data](#)
- Standards of Practice: School Health Services Manual - [04. BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS](#)
- [Vaccine Coverage](#)

Vermont Department of Public Safety: [School Safety Center](#)

- [Infectious Disease Response](#)

**SAMPLE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND FORMS:**

U.S. Department of Labor

- [Bloodborne Pathogens](#)

- *Employer Guidance* [Reducing All Workers' Exposures to Seasonal Flu Virus](#)

- *Healthcare Wide* [Hazards \(Lack of\) Universal Precautions](#)

Vermont School Crisis Planning Guide: [Infectious Disease](#)