

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT**POLICY: STUDENT HEALTH****DATE ADOPTED:** March 18, 2014**POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the intent of the school district that each student will have access to health services. These include health appraisal, communicable disease control, emergency and first aid care, and health counseling. These services will be carried out within the district's policy and procedure guidelines in conjunction with parents and community health resources. Vision, hearing, immunization reviews and child abuse reporting will be carried out as mandated by Vermont State Law.

Colchester School District recognizes that some of our students may have no source of primary health care. The nurse in each building shall make families aware of resources in our community for on-going medical care to ensure all children have a medical home. In so doing, a continuing relationship with a primary health care professional can be established.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

The Colchester School District strongly recommends that each child entering the Colchester Schools as an EEE, kindergarten, or transfer student have a physical examination. Parents should have their child examined by a health care provider of their choice at parent expense prior to initial enrollment. Parents are encouraged to have these exams done in either the spring or summer before the start of school.

Sports participation: In order to assure a student's health and well-being while participating in intramural or interscholastic sports, it is the Colchester School District's policy in keeping with the Vermont Principal's Association recommendation, that all student athletes must have a thorough medical examination every two years performed by a licensed physician. The "Well Exam – Sports participation Clearance Form", is the only clearance form recommended to be used. Failure to do so shall render the student ineligible to participate in practices and/or games.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Colchester School District follows the regulations adopted by the Vermont legislature which are set forth by the Vermont Department of Health and are based on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. These regulations, which establish minimum immunization requirements for attendance, seek to prevent the introduction and/or transmission of vaccine preventable diseases within schools. Students not meeting vaccine or exemption requirements may not attend school without a provisional admittance form. Students provisionally admitted to pre-school or school must be fully immunized within six months of enrollment.

Date Warned: March 3, 2014
First Reading: March 4, 2014
Second Reading: March 18, 2014

Students are exempt from these regulations provided they have a medical exemption form signed by their health care provider or if they hold religious or philosophical convictions opposed to immunizations. The philosophical and religious exemption form is separate from the medical exemption form and must be signed annually for all exempted students. Parents must attest that they have read and understand evidence-based educational materials on immunization provided by the Vermont Department of Health.

Students who are not in compliance with the provisions of the law are at risk for exclusion. The student, or in the case of a minor, the student's parent or guardian must receive written notification by mail from the school or in person that the student is not in compliance as well as the steps needed to comply. In the event of exclusion, school officials shall notify the Department of Health.

USE OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS IN SCHOOL

The Colchester School District believes that when possible, prescription medications should be administered by parents and/or guardians in the home. Parents of students who routinely take medications at home need to communicate with the school nurse about which medication their child is taking as well as the name of the prescribing health care provider and any possible side effects which may occur.

There is a medication procedure in place for those students who need to take medications during the school day. Prescription medication must be brought in by the parent/guardian in a pharmacy labeled bottle. All prescription medications are kept in a locked and secure place. For safety reasons, no medication should be brought in by the student. Medications will be given by the school nurse or their designee according to the district's defined procedures.

Individual considerations will be given to older students who must keep emergency medication with them at all times. (i.e. EpiPen, inhaler). These students must keep the medication in a safe place and notify the health staff of use. Those students who are carrying prescription medication with them must have a note signed by their health care provider and parent/guardian on file in the health office authorizing them to self-carry their medication at school. Anyone found to be irresponsible for the safekeeping of their medication will be required to keep their medication locked in the health office and it will be administered by the school nurse.

The school nurse shall keep a record of all medications administered on the student's individual medication log.

HEAD LICE

Each year, six-twelve million cases of pediculosis (Head Lice) are reported in the United States, mostly in children. Unfortunately, embarrassment and misinformation often prevent safe, effective treatment. Keeping children out of school has not proven to decrease the risk of infection. It is our goal as the Health Services Department to support each student's educational process by educating parents and guardians on the most current research in the management of pediculosis. Head lice are not known to transmit infectious disease person-to-person. Therefore, it is the belief of the National Association of School Nurses, the Vermont Department of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics that students should not be excluded from school for having nits (lice eggs). If your child is found to have head lice you will be notified by the school nurse and instructed on appropriate and effective treatment.