

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT**POLICY: STUDENT HEALTH****DATE ADOPTED:** February 3, 2004**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 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, and scoliosis screening, 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

Pupils: The Colchester School District strongly recommends that each child entering the Colchester Schools as a EEE, kindergarten, or transfer student have a physical examination. Parents should have their child examined by a physician of their choice at parent expense within twenty (20) days of initial enrollment. Parents are urged to have the physical examinations of their child during either the spring or summer prior to school opening.

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 that the student athlete must have a thorough medical examination every two years from a licensed physician. Failure to do so shall render the student ineligible to participate in practices and/or games.

IMMUNIZATION

Vermont Immunization Law (Title 18, Chapter 23, Subchapter 4, Section 1121) requires all students attending Vermont schools to be immunized unless exempted from immunization for medical, religious or moral reasons.

Children shall be excluded from school for failure to comply with the provisions of the law. However, no child shall be excluded for failure to comply unless there has been notification by the school's principal to the child's parent or guardian of the non-compliance and of the parent's rights for an exemption.

Date Warned: November 26, 2003
First Reading: December 2, 2003
Second Reading: February 3, 2004

In the event of exclusion, the school's principal shall notify the Department of Health and contact the parents and guardians in an effort to obtain compliance with the law so the child may attend school.

USE OF MEDICATION IN SCHOOL: PRESCRIPTION AS WELL AS OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION*

The Colchester School District believes that it is more desirable for medications to be administered by parents/guardians in the home. Whenever students routinely take medications at home, however, parents/guardians must ensure access to the student's physician and communicate with the school regarding the medication, dosage, and possible side effects of the drug.

The district clearly recognizes that some students will need to take medications during the regular school day. Medication must be brought to school by a parent or guardian in a container labeled by the pharmacy or physician and stored in a secure, locked storage place. For safety reasons, no medication should be brought in by the student. Except in rare or emergency situations, such medications will be administered by the school nurse or a building administrator according to the district's defined procedures.

Individual considerations will be given to students who must keep medication with him/her at all times (i.e., inhaler). They must keep the medication in a secure place and notify staff of use. Anyone found not to be responsible for safekeeping and use of inhalers, will have to keep medication locked in the nurse's office and it will be administered by the school nurse or a building administrator.

The school nurse shall keep a record of all medications administered on the student's individual medication log. This policy identifies separate procedures for chronic and temporary conditions.

HEAD LICE

Over six million cases of pediculosis (Head Lice), are reported in the United State each year, mostly in children. Unfortunately, embarrassment and misinformation often prevent safe, effective treatment. It is our goal as the Health Services Department to support each student's education 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 and the American Academy of Pediatrics that students should not be excluded from school for having nits (lice eggs).

**This policy refers to all medication.*