

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT**POLICY: STUDENT HEALTH****DATE ADOPTED:** December 19, 2023**POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the intent of the school district that each student will have access to health services. Health services include, but are not limited to, health appraisal, care coordination, 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 and hearing screenings, immunization reviews, and child abuse reporting will be carried out as mandated by Vermont State Law. The Colchester School District nursing staff will maintain a Health Office Manual to standardize health services procedures according to best practice. The Health Office Manual will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

The Colchester School District strongly recommends that each child in the district follow the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations for well-child visits. The AAP encourages the continuity of health care and supervision from birth through adulthood. 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, when possible.

Sports participation: In order to ensure 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 at least every two years performed by a licensed health care provider. The "Well Exam – Sports Participation Clearance Form", is the preferred clearance form 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. An official immunization record must be presented to the school upon admission. Students not meeting vaccine or exemption requirements may be temporarily admitted only after the approval of a school nurse or administrator. Students

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provisionally admitted to preschool or school must be fully immunized within six months of enrollment unless exempt.

Students are exempt from these regulations provided they have a medical exemption form signed by their health care provider or if they hold religious 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.

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. 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 emergency 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 or their designee.

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