

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

Background

The District is committed to providing safe and healthy learning and working environments for students and staff.

Procedures

1. The District follows the guidance of the School Medical Health Officer(s) with Vancouver Coastal Health with respect to all communicable disease matters, in accordance with the School Act.
2. Information regarding communicable diseases can be of particular concern to District employees and members of a school community, however, this information will be treated as strictly confidential.
3. Mandatory disclosure to any District employee of communicable disease or other medical information is never required from any student, parent(s), employee, or volunteer.
4. When an individual's medical information is disclosed to an employee of the District, it will be treated as strictly confidential. This confidentiality extends to any speculation of the communicable diseases or other medical information concerning others. Additionally, this confidentiality extends to any records the District may hold.
5. Inappropriate disclosure of an individual's confidential medical information or speculation concerning an individual's confidential medical information can lead to harmful stigmatization or discrimination and is not condoned by the District or any public health or legislative body.
6. Confidential medical information disclosed to District employees will not be shared with others without express permission of the individual, or in the case of students, permission of the student's parent(s). Parents must be involved in any decision to share confidential medical information regarding their child(ren) with other employees of the District or others in the school community.
7. Communicable disease information may be shared in general terms with staff, students, or parents when it is determined by the School Medical Health Officer(s) or the Public Health Nurse(s) with Vancouver Coastal Health that such information sharing is warranted for the protection of public health, as is outlined in the *Public Health Act* (2008). In these instances, an individual's or group of individual's medical information shall remain strictly confidential. Such information may include, but is not limited to, the presence of an active reportable communicable disease case(s) attending at a school

while contagious. Examples of diseases which warrant public health action include, but are not limited to: measles, tuberculosis, rubella, and meningitis. Refer to Vancouver Coastal Health for more information.

8. Students and employees with a communicable disease shall be allowed to attend school, District programs, and work in an unrestricted manner, unless the School Medical Health Officer(s) advises otherwise, as in accordance with the School Act.
9. All District employees will practice Universal Precautions whenever dealing with the blood or body fluids of others. This includes District employees providing first aid services and personal care support to students. Universal Precautions (sometimes referred to as *Routine Precautions* or *Standard Precautions*) are a set of hygienic practices used to minimize the risk of transmission of communicable disease during contact with a person's blood or body fluids.

Reference: Sections 17, 20, 22, 65, 85, 89, 90, 91 School Act
Health Act
Safety Standards Act
Workers' Compensation Act
Communicable Diseases Regulation
Occupational Health and Safety Regulation
A Quick Guide to Common Childhood Diseases
VSB First Aid Manual
VSB Operations Handbook
VSB H&S Safe Work Procedures

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