

Communicable Disease Resource

for

Educators, Parents and Caregivers

Anglophone South School District

May 2014

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Introduction

This document contains links to fact sheets and guidelines on the prevention and control of communicable diseases and infestations. It is intended for school administrators, teachers, and parents.

Please note that it does not replace timely medical consultation and Public Health reporting – such actions may still be required to appropriately assess the situation and/or by legislation.

1. Rights and Responsibilities (Public Health Act and Education Act)



2. School Exclusion

It is the responsibility of the Principal or designate to exclude individual students from school when available information suggests this is necessary for control of further disease transmission. Please refer to the general “School Exclusion Guidelines” as well as consultation with Public Health as needed. Additional measures may also be taken to control communicable diseases, at the discretion of the school principal or teacher, such as increased cleaning procedures or limitation of school gatherings.

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/en/CDC/HealthProfessionals/SchoolExclusionGuidelines.pdf>

3. Provincial Communicable Disease and Infection Fact Sheets

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/diseases.html>

[Bedbugs](#)

[Head or Body Lice](#)

[Scabies](#)

4. Handwashing Coughing and Sneezing

Hands spread an estimated 80 percent of common infectious diseases like the common cold and flu. For example, when you touch a doorknob that has the flu virus on it and then touch your mouth, you may become ill. Disease-causing germs are easily removed with good hand washing technique.


Hand hygiene MOH
recommendations sch


Hand washing
pdf.pdf (32 KB)

5. Childhood and School Immunization Program in New Brunswick

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/en/CDC/Immunization/RoutineImmunizationSchedule.pdf>

6. Policy 706 Highlights - proof of immunization

<http://www.gnb.ca/0000/pol/e/706a.pdf>

3.0 Proof of mandatory Immunization:

confirmation from a public health nurse that the listing of inoculations described above has been reviewed by, or is on file at a New Brunswick public health office.

6.3 Verification of Records and Admission

6.3.1 District/school staff are responsible for verifying that proof of mandatory immunization has been received. District/school staff are not responsible for determining whether the information is accurate. This is the responsibility of the public health nurse.

6.5 Record Keeping and Liaising with Public Health

6.5.4 Each month, the name of any students entering New Brunswick schools for the first time, and for whom immunization records have been submitted that month, must be reported to the local public health office.

6.5.5 Immunization records of students in the school system are routinely reviewed by public health officials. Where, as part of this routine review of immunization records, a public health official identifies an incomplete record, the school shall notify the parents of this fact. Parents will have 120 days to complete the mandatory immunizations



Exemption Form
English 2010,pd...



Education and
Immunization co...

7. Community Acquired – MRSA



Comm Acq MRSA
Flyer.pdf (117...

8. Influenza Reporting

In order to determine if there is an outbreak, it is important to have a sense of what level of illness is expected in schools at any point throughout the year. It is important to conduct regular tracking of absenteeism rates and obtain underlying reasons where possible. This allows for prompt detection of an increase in absenteeism which may be related to an infection or disease. When such events are discovered early, it allows for initiation of control measures aimed at limiting the spread of infection.

The province of New Brunswick, in collaboration with the federal Flu Watch program, conducts yearly influenza-like illness surveillance in many institutions, including schools. Participation in the School Absenteeism Influenza Program each year assists in tracking the extent of influenza-like illness in communities.



School Absenteeism
Form-2012-20...

9. Sexually Transmitted & Blood Borne Infections

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/sexually_transmitted_diseasesandinfections3.html

10. Public Health Contact Information



Public Health
Offices Saint Jo...

11. Sample letters for Administrators (scabies and head lice)

For all other Communicable Diseases follow the direction of Public Health as indicated in the Health Act.

The following are examples of letters which the school may consider using in specific instances. Please see the specific disease entries in the communicable disease tables for recommended use. These letters should be accompanied by disease-specific facts sheets; these can be found and printed from the government of NB's website – see References and Useful Links, page 38. Please feel free to edit the letter as needed.

Letters to all parents regarding a communicable disease/problem should rarely be sent; however these could be considered if there is concern in the community with the instance of one or more cases of a specific disease. Please consult with your local Public Health Office.

Appendix

Sample Letter Scabies

Date:

Subject: Scabies

Dear parent/guardian

An individual in the school has been diagnosed with scabies. This is a skin condition caused by a tiny mite which lives under the skin. Scabies is not an indication of uncleanliness and does not spread disease.

Scabies is spread from person to person by close contact with skin or clothing from someone with scabies. Since your child may have come in close contact with this condition we would like you to check your child for possible signs. Rashes most commonly occur between the fingers, around the wrists, elbows, waistline, abdomen and chest. In persons that have not had scabies before, these signs and symptoms may not occur for four to six weeks. This rash is usually very itchy.

If you are concerned that your child or someone else in the family has this condition, please see your health care provider so that a diagnosis may be made and treatment may be given. If one person in a family has scabies, it is recommended that all family members be treated. Other close contacts may require treatment as well. Please discuss this with your health care provider.

For more information, please see the attached facts sheet. Do not hesitate to speak to your health care provider at your nearest public health office should you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Principal / Teacher

Sample Letter

Head Lice Found in School

Date:

Subject: Head Lice

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Head lice have been detected in the school. The parents of all students are being notified. It is extremely important to check your child's head for head lice TODAY. Keep checking every 2 days until there have been no head lice found for 10 consecutive days. If head lice are found, start treatment as soon as possible. This will help prevent head lice from spreading.

Refer to the following information:

1. Head Lice Fact Sheet
2. How to Detect Head Lice
3. Treatment options and Nit removal

Teachers will reduce head-to-head contact activities while head lice cases are known to be around. If for any reason you are having difficulties treating the head lice effectively, please call the school or the Public Health Communicable Disease team toll free at 1-888-829-6444 for more information.

Sincerely,

Principal/Teacher

Sample letter

Date:

Subject: Pediculosis (lice) found on your child.

Dear Parent/Guardian

We would like to bring to your attention that we have found live head lice on your child. Head lice are not a sign of uncleanliness; they are common among schoolchildren who tend to have close direct or indirect head to head contact.

In order to control the spread of head lice in schools, it is important that you ensure your child is treated. Effective treatments for head lice can be found at your local pharmacy; please consult with your pharmacist. It is important that you read and follow the instructions carefully.

Please see the attached facts sheet for further information. Do not hesitate to speak to your health care provider, pharmacist or the nurse at your nearest Public Health office should you have any further questions.

Principal / Teacher



Sample Letter

Head Lice

Date _____

Subject: **Head Lice**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

At school today a member of your child's class was found to have head lice.

- Please review the attached sheets "Head Lice Fact Sheet"
- Examine your child's hair for signs of head lice. Head lice are often hard to see and move rapidly when the hair is parted while searching for them.
- Applying thick, white, inexpensive, hair conditioner slows the head lice down, so they can be trapped, seen & removed by combing with a metal "nit" comb.
- If head lice or eggs (nits) are found in your child's hair, all other members of the household must be checked as well. The conditioner method as mentioned above is recommended for detection.
- Treatment is only necessary for those who have head lice &/or eggs (nits) and should all be treated at the same time.
- See attached for recommended treatments to be followed closely.

Finally, please complete the section below and send it back to the classroom teacher when your child returns to school.

Principal _____

Date: _____

Cut Here

Child's Name: _____

___ Yes, I have checked my child's hair using the hair conditioner recommended.

___ I found no head lice or eggs

___ I found some head lice and will continue to treat

___ No, I have not checked my child's hair because:

Parent's/Guardian's signature: _____

Date: _____

Sample Letter

Head Lice

Dear Parent/Guardian:

At school today your child was found to have head lice.

- Head lice are tiny insects that live in human hair. They are not caused by poor hygiene and they do not carry diseases.
- Head lice transfer from child to child when their hair is in close contact, for example, while playing or doing schoolwork. For this reason head lice infestation is relatively common in primary school children.
- The attached Head Lice Fact Sheet & Recommended Treatment Sheet explains how to check for and treat head lice. The hair conditioner method is recommended for detection.
- It is also important to check all other members of your household for head lice.
- Treatment is necessary for only those who have lice &/or eggs (nits). It is important to treat these people at the same time.

Finally, please complete the section below and send it back to the class teacher when your child returns to school, to confirm that you have begun the recommended head lice treatment. The Principal has the right to exclude your child until treatment has commenced.

Thank you

Principal: _____

Date: _____

Cut Here

Confirmation of Commencement of Head Lice Treatment

Child's Name: _____

Date treatment commenced ___/___/___

Treatment used: Insecticide _____ Hair Conditioner _____

Other (please describe): _____

- I understand that head lice treatment must continue over a 10-day period
- I have read the enclosed Head Lice Fact Sheet

Parent's/Guardian's signature: _____ Date: _____