

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)

http://laws.gnb.ca/en/showdoc/cs/P-22.4/ga:l_iii#anchorga:l_iii

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. Hand Washing 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.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/healthy_people/content/hand_washing.html

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

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/en/CDC/HealthProfessionals/412-SchoolExceptionForm.pdf>

7. Community Acquired – MRSA

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/mrsa-eng.php>

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. **(see Appendix A for reporting form)**

9. Sexually Transmitted & Blood Borne Infections

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/sexually_transmitteddiseasesandinfections3.html

10. Public Health Contact Information

Communicable Disease Line for Saint John Area (includes Sussex to St.Stephen) **506-658-5188**

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/healthy_people/content/public_health_clinics.html

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.

Appendices to follow:

Influenza School Reporting Form

**ZONE 2 PUBLIC HEALTH INFLUENZA SCHOOL SURVEILLANCE 2013--2014
DAILY ABSENTEEISM REPORT**

INSTRUCTIONS: Please complete and fax or e-mail this influenza reporting form **DAILY** to the Saint John Public Health Office when either reporting criteria is met:

1) The daily absenteeism rate is greater than 10%, and is most likely due to influenza symptoms (see definition below)*,

Example: A school would call when the observed absenteeism is 12% and the majority of these absences are likely due to influenza illness.

OR

2) Daily absenteeism is higher than the previous week's rate (5% or more above the previous week's rate), and this increase is most likely due to children experiencing influenza symptoms (see definition below).

Example: If your expected absentee rate is 3% (based on previous week's absenteeism), and you absenteeism rate today is 8% and likely due to influenza symptoms.

Influenza symptoms: fever and cough with other respiratory symptoms (such as sore throat, achy joints, muscles). Children under 5 years of age may not experience fever and may have some gastrointestinal symptoms such as diarrhea.

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): _____ **Name of school:** _____

Name of the person reporting: _____ **Telephone number:** _____

1. **Total number of students absent today :** _____

2. **Total number of students attending your school :** _____

3. **Total absenteeism rate (#1 / #2 x 100):** _____ %

4. Is the absenteeism rate likely due to children experiencing influenza symptoms? Yes No

5. If using reporting criteria #2:

a. Previous week's absenteeism rate: _____ %

b. This increased absenteeism likely due to children experiencing influenza symptoms? Yes No

6. If data is available,

a. Total number of students absent likely due to influenza symptoms: _____

b. Absenteeism rate likely due to influenza symptoms (#6a / #2 x 100): _____ %

COMMENTS: Please identify other known causes of absenteeism (e.g.) class trips, non-influenza illness (e.g. gastrointestinal)

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