

**TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION
POLICY and PROCEDURES**

Title	Effective Date	Revision Date	Pages
No. 744 COMMUNICABLE DISEASES	March 13, 1996	March 30, 2004 February 6, 2018 January 2024	

It is the policy of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education to adopt measures to reduce exposure to communicable diseases in our schools.

PROCEDURE Under Policy 744

- Any contagious disease, which can pose a serious health problem, shall be dealt with promptly by the school principal or designate who will advise the Regional Executive Director of Education or designate and the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education's Occupational Health and Safety Officer.
- Communicable diseases may affect students or school staff these diseases can be transferred to others and could be life threatening.
- Students who are diagnosed with a communicable disease, illness or infection may be absent from school.
- The confidentiality and dignity of students diagnosed with a communicable disease will be respected.
- Tri-County Regional Centre for Education will collaborate and take advice regarding communicable diseases from the Public Health Services Team within the Nova Scotia Health Authority.

1.0 Principal Responsibilities

1.1 The principal shall:

- 1.1.1 Notify Public Health Services when aware that a student has been diagnosed with a communicable disease; identifiable under the *Health Protection Act*.
- 1.1.2 Notify Public Health Services if 10% or more of the students are absent from school due to illness;
- 1.1.3 Contact parent(s)/guardian(s) if it is suspected that a student is exhibiting symptoms of a communicable disease;
- 1.1.4 Collaborate with Public Health Services regarding student immunizations;

- 1.1.5 Distribute communicable disease, information sheets and/or letters home only under the direction of Public Health Services in the Nova Scotia Health Authority;
- 1.1.6 Ensure school staff is aware of this policy.

2.0 School Staff Responsibilities

2.1 School staff shall:

- 2.1.1 Notify the principal if they are aware that a student has been diagnosed with a communicable disease, illness or infection; as outlined here:
https://novascotia.ca/dhw/cdpc/documents/06026_ItsTheLawPoster_En.pdf
- 2.1.2 Promote with students the importance of regularly washing hands with soap and water as it the most effective way to prevent communicable diseases, illnesses and infections from spreading;
- 2.1.3 Exercise sensitivity and confidentiality when a student is diagnosed with a communicable disease;
- 2.1.4 Distribute communicable disease, information sheets and/or letters home only when directed to do so by the principal;
- 2.1.5 Contact Public Health Services in the Nova Scotia Health Authority with questions regarding communicable diseases.

3.0 Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Responsibilities

3.1 Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall:

- 3.1.1 Notify the principal if their child has been diagnosed with a communicable disease that might put others at risk;
- 3.1.2 Promote proper hand washing techniques with their child;
- 3.1.3 Contact the Nova Scotia Health Authority with any questions regarding communicable diseases.

4.0 Recommended Absence from School

The following are recommended timelines from Public Health Services in the Nova Scotia Health Authority indicating when students may be absent from school as a result of having a communicable disease:

Disease/Illness/Infection diagnosed by a physician	Recommended timelines
Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	Student may return to school when free of symptoms.
Fifth Disease	Student may attend school.
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Student may attend school.
Hepatitis A	Student may return to school two weeks after onset of symptoms.
Hepatitis B	Student may attend school.
Hepatitis C	Student may attend school.
HIV/AIDS	Student may attend school.
Impetigo	Student may return to school twenty-four hours after treatment has been initiated.
Influenza	Student may return to school when symptoms have improved.
Meningitis-Bacterial	Student may return to school after having completed antibiotic treatment.
Meningitis-Viral	Student may attend school.
Mononucleosis (Infectious)	Student may attend school.
Mumps	Student may return to school five days from the time of onset.
Roseola	Student may return to school when rash is no longer apparent.
Rubeola (Measles)	Student may return to school five days after onset of rash.
Rubella (German Measles)	Student may return to school seven days after the onset of rash.
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Student may return to school five days after starting antibiotics or if no antibiotics are given, three weeks after onset of symptoms.
Ringworm	Student may return to school after treatment is initiated.
Scabies	Student may return to school after treatment is completed.
Strep Throat	Student may return to school twenty-four hours after onset of treatment.
Varicella-Zoster (Chicken Pox)	Student may return to school five days after onset of rash or when all lesions are crusted over.