

Policy

The Two River Supervisory Union School Districts (SU/SD) strives to protect the safety and health of children and youth in its care, and its employees. It is the policy of the Two River Supervisory Union School Boards to implement communicable disease mitigation measures including but not limited to: vaccination of school staff, mask wearing, social distancing, screening testing, quarantine/isolation, improved ventilation, cleaning, and disinfecting, and providing hygiene supplies.

Definitions:

1. **Communicable disease** means an illness due to an infectious agent or its toxic products which is transmitted, directly or indirectly, to a person from an infected person, animal or anthropoid, or through the agency of an intermediate animal, host or vector of the inanimate environment. “Communicable disease” shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV);
 - b. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS);
 - c. Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2); Novel Coronavirus 19 (COVID-19);
 - d. Ebola;
 - e. Chicken pox;
 - f. Hepatitis;
 - g. Measles;
 - h. Meningitis;
 - i. Mononucleosis;
 - j. Whooping cough;
 - k. Cholera;
 - l. Bubonic plague;
 - m. Anthrax; and
 - n. any mutations arising from or relating to infectious disease or “communicable disease”.
2. **Comprehensive Health Education** includes the study of disease, such as HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, as well as other communicable diseases, and the prevention of disease¹.
3. **Bloodborne pathogen** means a pathogenic microorganism that is present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. Such pathogens include hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Rights of Staff and Students:

Privacy and Confidentiality:

1. The superintendent shall develop procedures which ensure confidentiality in the maintenance and, where authorized, dissemination of all medically-related documents.
2. The “Vermont Standards of Practice: School Health Services Manual” shall determine the procedures 1) for monitoring students and staff who may potentially have a communicable disease if in school while infectious and 2) for documenting appropriate information accordingly.

Health Protections and Universal Precautions

1. Infection Control
 - A. The SU/SD shall comply with applicable Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration (VOSHA) rules in order to protect employees who are reasonably anticipated to be exposed to communicable diseases as part of their regular job duties.



Communicable Disease Mitigation Measures or Students and Staff

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(RECOMMENDED)

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- B. The superintendent or designee shall determine those employees (by job class and possibly by task or procedure) who are reasonably anticipated to have occupational exposure to communicable diseases as part of their duties.
- C. A written Exposure Control Plan concerning communicable diseases, which includes the use of universal precautions, shall be developed, maintained and followed.

Curriculum, Instruction, and School-sponsored Activities

- 1. Comprehensive Health Education
The SU/SD shall provide systematic and extensive elementary and secondary comprehensive educational program, including the study of disease, such as HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, as well as other communicable diseases, and the prevention of disease.
- 2. Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities
School authorities will make reasonable accommodations to allow students with communicable disease(s) to participate in school-sponsored physical activities.

Implementation

The superintendent shall develop procedures to assure compliance with all applicable federal and state laws pertaining to communicable diseases and the mitigation of communicable diseases and to protect the rights of students and staff with regard to communicable diseases.

All SU/SD personnel shall be advised of routine procedures to follow with regard to universal precautions (handling body fluids). These procedures, developed in consultation with public health and medical personnel, shall provide simple and effective precautions against transmission of diseases to persons exposed to the blood or body fluids of another. The procedures shall follow standard health and safety practices. No distinction shall be made between body fluids from individuals with a known disease or infection and from individuals without symptoms or with an undiagnosed disease.

District/Board:	Replaces Policy	Review Only	First Read	Date Warned	Date Adopted
Two Rivers Supervisory Union			05/04/2023	05/22/2023	06/01/2023
Green Mountain Unified School District			05/18/2023	06/05/2023	06/15/2023
Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District			05/09/2033	06/04/2023	06/14/2023