

Onondaga County Health Department

Bureau of Disease Control Tip Sheet for School

The Onondaga County Health Department's Bureau of Disease Control can assist school nurses on a variety of health related topics that involve Communicable Diseases (CD), Sexually Transmitted Disease (STDs) and Tuberculosis (TB). Please call our office at (315) 435-3236 to speak with a nurse regarding any of these areas and please visit our website for school nurses at <http://www.ongov.net/health/schools.html>

COMMUNICABLE ILLNESSES REQUIRING EXCLUSION

Students should be excluded from school and school activities if they have documented fevers ($T \geq 100^{\circ} F$) and are suspected of having a contagious illness (influenza-like illness, conjunctivitis, persistent cough etc).

Communicable diseases that *require* exclusion from school and school activities:

- Airborne, droplet spread: Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Pertussis, active pulmonary tuberculosis, varicella, influenza, Strep pharyngitis/Scarlet fever
- Food-borne: acute hepatitis A

Skin infections may require exclusion from contact sports (if the lesions cannot be completely covered): Herpes, Shingles, Staph/Strep skin infections, fungal skin infections (e.g. ringworm)

Exclusion at the *end of the day*, readmission to school after treatment is initiated:

- Head lice
- Scabies

PROPHYLAXIS OF CLOSE CONTACTS

Prophylactic measures exist for close contacts of the following diagnosed infectious diseases; consult with your medical director, the student's health care provider, and please notify the Onondaga County Health Department at (315) 435-3236 if you are aware of a student with the following:

- Meningococcal infections
- Hepatitis A
- Pertussis
- Influenza
- Active Pulmonary (lungs or throat) Tuberculosis

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Free and confidential STD and HIV screening and treatment is available for patients 12 years and older. No appointment necessary, but openings are limited. Clinic is located in the John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 421 Montgomery Street, Basement Room 80, Syracuse, NY.

Hours of operation:

Monday:	8:30 – 11:00 am and 12:30 – 3:30 pm
Tuesday:	12:30 – 4:30 pm
Thursday:	12:30 – 3:30 pm
Friday:	8:30 – 11:00 am

TUBERCULOSIS DISEASE

The difference between latent TB infection and active TB disease:

A person with LATENT TB INFECTION	A person with ACTIVE PULMONARY TB DISEASE
Does not feel sick	Usually feels sick
Has no symptoms	Has signs and symptoms that may include: a bad cough that lasts 3 weeks or longer, pain in the chest, Coughing up blood or sputum, weakness or fatigue, weight loss, no appetite, chills, fever, night sweats
Cannot spread TB bacteria to others	May spread bacteria to others
Usually has a positive skin test or positive TB blood test	Usually has a positive skin test or positive TB blood test
Has a normal chest x-ray and a negative sputum smear	May have an abnormal chest x-ray, or positive sputum smear or culture
Should consider treatment for latent TB infection to prevent active TB disease	Needs treatment for active TB disease

Commonly used medications: Isoniazid (INH), Rifampin (RIF), Pyrazinamide (PZA), Ethambutol (EMB)

RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

- Call the Onondaga County Health Department at (315)435-3236 to report:
 - 1) Clusters of illness, unusual illnesses
 - 2) Vaccine preventable illness
 - 3) Animal bites and bat exposures
- Please visit the Onondaga County Health Department website at www.ongov.net/health
 - 1) Communicable disease fact sheets to send home to parents.
 - 2) Current communicable diseases in Onondaga County with health tips
 - 3) Press releases from the Commissioner of Health
- New York State Department of Health - www.health.ny.gov (useful and informative site, especially about what is happening in NY State)
- <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/healthtopics/>
- Center of Disease Control and Prevention - www.cdc.gov A-Z Communicable Disease Index (This site has well-written fact sheets on significant diseases)



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