For purposes of this Policy, a communicable disease is one which is capable of being transmitted from one individual to another and which poses a direct threat of transmission of a significant health hazard. Communicable diseases include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV), cytomegalovirus (CMV), giardiasis, and tuberculosis (TB). See Appendix A for a full listing of reportable diseases.

The Burlington School District is committed to protecting the health and safety of all persons in the school community. The District encourages parents and guardians of all students to voluntarily report communicable diseases to the District so as allow the District to take the appropriate measures to address the educational needs of such student and to protect the health and safety of all students and all persons in the school community.

A student or a student's parent(s) or guardian(s), if requested, shall provide the school with a written statement from the student's treating physician supporting the student's attendance at school. To the extent permitted by law, the Burlington School District respects the privacy of persons with a communicable disease, which qualifies as a disability or handicap as defined by law.

All persons associated with the Burlington School District including, but not limited to, the School Board, the administration, the faculty, the staff, and the students, shall not discriminate against or tolerate discrimination against any person who has or is perceived as having a communicable disease which qualifies as a disability or handicap as defined by law.

In accordance with Vermont law the Burlington School District shall provide "comprehensive health education" to all students including education on communicable diseases.

The Administration shall develop appropriate procedures to implement the above stated policy as needed.

* For AIDS\HIV see District Policy on AIDS\HIV, F 26

Cross References: AIDS\HIV Policy, F 26
Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability, ACAC

Legal References:
1 V.S.A. § 317 (7) and (11), exceptions to public records disclosure statute.
18 V.S.A. §102, as amended, Duties of State Board of Health, authority to make regulations
18 V.S.A. §107, Life and Health of Inhabitants, Inspections, Investigations
18 V.S.A. §1001, as amended, Duties of School Health Official to report communicable diseases.
16 VSA § 131, et seq. and § 906, require schools to provide "comprehensive
health education" to students including education on communicable diseases generally and disease prevention.
Vermont Department of Health, Communicable Disease Regulations, Part IV. §§ 4-101 - 4-206.

Replaces Policy JHC – Communicable Diseases/Student Attendance
Policy Adopted: November 11, 1986
Policy Reviewed: October 25, 1989
Policy Reviewed: June 4, 1992
Policy Reviewed and Revised: August 6, 1997