



THE SCHOOL NURSE BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2014



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Overview of Non-polio enteroviruses

Non-polio enteroviruses are very common viruses. They cause about 10 to 15 million infections in the United States each year. Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) is one of many non-polio enteroviruses.

Anyone can get infected with non-polio enteroviruses. But infants, children, and teenagers are more likely to get infected and become sick. That's because they do not yet have immunity (protection) from previous exposures to the viruses.

Most people who get infected with non-polio enteroviruses do not get sick. Or, they may have mild illness, like the common cold. However, in rare instances, some people can get sick and have serious complications. Similar to the common flu, infants and people with weakened immune systems may be more susceptible to experience such complications. Good hygiene practices should be exercised to prevent the spread of germs to these vulnerable populations.

You can get infected with non-polio enteroviruses by having close contact with an infected person. You can also get infected by touching objects or surfaces that have the virus on them then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

There is no specific treatment for non-polio enterovirus infection. People with mild illness caused by non-polio enterovirus infection typically only need symptom treatment. They usually recover completely. However, some illnesses caused by non-polio enteroviruses can be severe enough to require hospitalization.

In the United States, people are more likely to get infected with non-polio enteroviruses in the summer and fall.

For additional information on non-polio enteroviruses, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/ev-d68.html>.

Keep Your Child from Getting and Spreading ENTEROVIRUS D68

- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Cover your coughs & sneezes
- Wash your hands often
- Clean & disinfect surfaces
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Stay home when you're sick

www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/EV68/

Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ Overview of Non-polio Enteroviruses.
- ◆ Immunization Grace Periods and Waivers.
- ◆ Letter to Connecticut School Nurses from Massachusetts Division of Health Professions Licensure: Fieldtrips.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

TO: Superintendents of Schools
School Medical Advisors
School Nurse Supervisors
Local Directors of Health
Health Care Providers

FROM: Vincent Sacco, MS
Immunization Program Manager

DATE: November 15, 2011

SUBJECT: Immunization Grace Period and Waiver Requests

The purpose of this communication is to define and clarify the grace period allowed on immunizations, and to notify you that the process of requesting a waiver for vaccines administered during the grace period is no longer necessary.

The following is an excerpt from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP), [General Recommendations on Immunization](#), January 2011, page 5, "In clinical practice, vaccine doses occasionally are administered at intervals less than the minimum interval or at ages younger than the minimum age. Doses administered too close together or at too young an age can lead to a suboptimal immune response. However, administering a dose a few days earlier than the minimum interval or age is unlikely to have a substantially negative effect on the immune response to that dose. Vaccine doses administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum interval or age are considered valid... (Day 1 is the day before the day that marks the minimum age or minimum interval for a vaccine.) **Doses of any vaccine administered ≥ 5 days earlier than the minimum interval or age should not be counted as valid doses and should be repeated as age appropriate.** The repeat dose should be spaced after the invalid dose by the recommended minimum interval... If the first dose in a series is given ≥ 5 days before the recommended minimum age, the dose should be repeated on or after the date when the child reaches at least the minimum age. If the vaccine is a live vaccine, ensuring that a minimum interval of 28 days has elapsed from the invalid dose is recommended."

The Department of Public Health has formerly recognized this 4 day grace period, but has had a waiver application process at the Immunization Program for individual students vaccinated during the grace period. However, due to the significant burden this process places on health care providers and school nursing staff, we will no longer be supporting the waiver application process. **Doses administered to students during the 4 day grace period should be counted as valid and no further action is necessary. However, doses administered 5 or more days prior to the minimum age or interval will not be counted as valid shots and will need to be repeated for school entry.** This policy change does not impact or alter the recommended minimum age and/or intervals and should not be viewed as a change in practice.

The minimum age and intervals between immunization doses can be found in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases* (also known as *The Pink Book*), Appendix A at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/A/age-interval-table.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact the Immunization Program at 860-509-7929.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Division of Health Professions Licensure
Board of Registration in Nursing
239 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114

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September 17, 2014

Dear Connecticut School Nurse:

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) is created and authorized at General Laws (G.L.) chapter 13, sections 13, 14, 14A, 15 and 15D, and G.L. c. 112, ss. 74 through 81C to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth through the regulation of nursing practice and education, and the issuance of advisory rulings. The Board has legal authority to promulgate regulations that govern nursing practice and nursing education. These regulations are contained at 244 CMR 3.00 - 9.00, and are available on the Board's website (Nursing) for your review and reference.

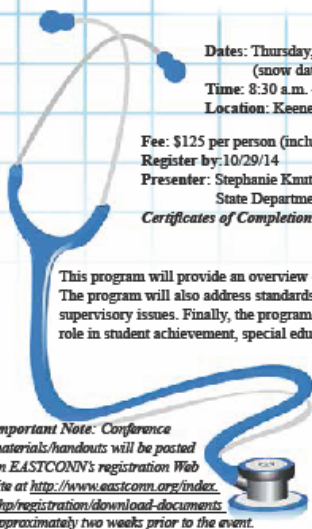
Pursuant to G.L. Chapter 112, Section 80: Violations of provisions relating to professional nursing, "a nonresident, licensed to practice professional nursing in another jurisdiction, may attend upon a nonresident of the commonwealth temporarily abiding here". So, yes!! You are welcome to practice nursing with the students and others you accompany. Should practice in your jurisdiction include the delegation of "medications to be administered by unlicensed personnel", such practice is acceptable and pursuant to the delegation arrangement in your jurisdiction.

The Board would like to be clear in their response by stating that you may not practice nursing in Massachusetts for any individual that does not accompany you from the jurisdiction in which you are currently licensed.

Please be advised that the response of the Board to individual practice inquiries represent the Board's interpretation of the legal scope of nursing practice. This response is valid only in the context in which it is rendered; it does not have general applicability, as do statutes, regulations or advisory rulings on nursing practice.

Laurie Talarico, MS, RN, CNP
Nursing Practice Coordinator, Board of Registration in Nursing
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Professional Development Opportunities, cont'd



The Connecticut State Department of Education and EASTCONN
present the following opportunity for school nurses

New School Nurse Workshop Parts 1 & 2

Dates: Thursday, November 13, 2014 & Thursday, December 4, 2014
(snow dates: 11/14/14 and 12/5/14))
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Location: Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main Street, Wethersfield CT 06109

Fee: \$125 per person (includes breakfast and lunch)
Register by: 10/29/14 **Course #:** 1425300230
Presenter: Stephanie Knutson, MSN, RN, School Health Consultant,
State Department of Education
Certificates of Completion will be awarded.


This program will provide an overview of state laws and regulations regarding school health. The program will also address standards of practice for school nurses, competencies, and supervisory issues. Finally, the program will present an overview of the school nurse's role in student achievement, special education and Section 504.

Important Note: Conference materials/handouts will be posted on EASTCONN's registration Web site at <http://www.eastconn.org/index.php/registration/download-documents> approximately two weeks prior to the event. Please download, print and bring these materials with you to the conference as hard copies will not be available.

As a result of attending these sessions, participants will:

- understand state laws and regulations regarding school health;
- learn state mandates for immunizations, health assessments and screenings;
- learn about the school nurse's role in academic achievement;
- learn about documentation in school health services; and
- become knowledgeable about special education and Section 504 issues related to school health.

Register Online:
<http://www.eastconn.org/index.php/registration/csde-reg>

 If you have questions regarding registration, or have difficulty using the online form, e-mail conferenceoffice@eastconn.org, or call 860-455-1533. Weather-related closings or delay information can be found online the day of the event at www.eastconn.org, click on "Cancellations" or call 860-455-0420.

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Nondiscrimination Statement

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