

# S-212 CONTAGIOUS DISEASES



*In this document, the non implicit gender applies to both men and women.*

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(previously SE-13)

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## **Policy**

According to the *Child and Family Services Act*, all children needing protection in the community of Prescott-Russell or placed under Valoris' care are entitled to the same quantity and quality of services whatever their state of health.

The Agency advocates preventing serious contagious diseases by vaccinating children as is recommended by the Ontario Ministry of Health.

When a child has contracted or is suspected to have contracted a serious contagious disease (refer to the procedure), staff members, the foster family and all other persons in contact with him must be informed of this. They must also be informed of the risks involved and of precautions to take to avoid spreading the disease.

Before he is placed and then during his placement, the foster parents must be informed of any diagnosed or suspected contagious disease the child might have. The foster parents must agree to take this child with a full knowledge of those facts.

Written consent is required from any child aged 12 or over and/or his parents for all screening tests for serious diseases transmissible by contact with blood.

In the case of serious contagious diseases such as sexually transmitted diseases, information must be shared confidentially based on people's "need to know".

## **Procedure**

### **1. Suspected contagious diseases**

When a Child Welfare Worker suspects that a child to be admitted to Valoris' care has or may have a serious contagious disease, he must request a medical screening test, before placement if possible. It is not possible to have one performed before placement; he must arrange a medical examination for the child and the prescribed treatment as quickly as possible.

The Child Welfare Worker must advise his supervisor of this so that he may prepare an intervention plan that will protect both the child and staff, the foster parents and all other persons in contact with him. When a contagious disease is reported by member of the medical profession, the ministry must be notified by a serious occurrences report.

**2. Child and guardian education**

The child and his parents and/or foster parents must be fully informed of his condition and clearly understand the impact of his contagious disease. The child must be informed of his obligations and of precautionary measures to take to avoid transmitting the disease to the people around him.

Any child who refuses to cooperate in the treatment must be seen by a doctor so that he may reiterate to him the importance of collaborating and the consequences for him and others.

**3. Consent and involvement of the parents**

When a child is under care as a result of a temporary care agreement or temporary wardship, his parents must be fully informed and involved in all decisions concerning screening tests for diseases transmitted by contact with blood and the sharing of information with third parties.

**4. Refusal by a child or his parents to disclose information**

If a child older than 12 placed under Valoris' care with a Temporary Care agreement (TCA) or under Society wardship and/or his parents refuse to take a screening test for a serious contagious disease or refuse to provide information to a person who needs to know and that refusal may put other people at risk, the Agency must take legal measures: apprehension of the child or review of his status to obtain an order allowing it to be done as quickly as possible.

**5. Training and support for foster parents**

The foster parents' basic training must include general information on serious contagious diseases and general precautionary measures to avoid transmitting them.

Foster parents caring for a child with a serious contagious disease such as HIV, AIDS or Hepatitis A, B or C must be referred to a health profession to clearly understand the disease, the care to provide the child, risks to foster family members and precautions to be taken.

The Agency shall pay all the foster parents' extra costs for prescribed and/or required care for children with contagious diseases.

**6. Vaccination**

Upon admission, the Child Welfare Worker shall obtain a vaccination record for the child or information from his parents. If his record is not available, the child's welfare worker shall take measures to obtain one from the Board of Health or the family's doctor within three months of placement.

If a child's vaccination is not up to date, his Child Welfare Worker shall ask the foster parents to take the necessary action.

**7. Youth at high risk of transmitting or contracting contagious diseases**

Sexually active youth must receive information on the risks of sexually transmitted disease and the importance of protecting themselves. Youth who take drugs intravenously are also in a very high risk group. They must be advised to take screening tests at regular intervals.

## 8. Plan of Care

A medical plan of care for children suffering from serious contagious diseases and a plan for preventing the disease being transmitted to foster family and staff members must be drawn up in the annual plan of care and reviewed regularly.

## 9. Obligation of foster parents

According to Policy S-255 "Assessment and Supervision of Kinship and Kitship Foster Families ", foster parents must advise the Child Welfare Worker of all serious contagious diseases affecting family members that could put the child under their care or their ability to be foster parents at risk.

The child's welfare worker and his supervisor shall determine whether the foster family can continue to care for the child or other children without exposing them to health risks.

## Definitions, annexes and references

### Definition

**Parents:** Includes biological parents, adoptive parents, step-mother, step-father or all other persons responsible for the child previous to Valoris' involvement.

### Annexes

- [Sexually transmitted diseases;](#)
- [Immunization of children.](#)

### References

- General precautions against diseases transmissible by contact with blood;
- S-255: Assessment of a Potential Foster Family.