

POLICY F30: CONDOM AVAILABILITY POLICY

Policy

It is the intent of RUHS to implement a program promoting lifelong sexual health. This includes comprehensive sexual health education and the provision of, or referrals to, age-appropriate sexual health services. These activities support an effective sexually transmitted infections (STI), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and pregnancy-prevention program. Research shows that well-designed, well-implemented school-based STI prevention programs can significantly reduce sexual risk behaviors among students. Outcomes of such programs include a delay in first sexual intercourse, a decrease in the number of sex partners and an increase in condom or contraceptive use. There is no evidence that participation in such programs increases the likelihood of students engaging in sexual activity.

Comprehensive Sex Education

RUHS shall provide comprehensive sex education programs as required by state law and regulations of the State Board of Education. RUHS shall develop curricular programs intended to accomplish applicable goals enumerated in the National Health Education Standards, the National Sexuality Education Standards, and 16 V.S.A. § 131. In particular, the district shall provide sex education in its Comprehensive Health Education program that will include instruction in skills and information about barrier methods, including proper condom use and dental dams.

Parental Requests

- A. The curriculum will be made available to parents and community members for viewing upon request.
- B. Any pupil whose parent/guardian shall present to the school principal a signed statement that the teaching of disease, its symptoms, development and treatment, conflicts with the parents' religious convictions shall be exempt from such instruction, and no child so exempt shall be penalized by reason of that exemption. (16 V.S.A. § 134)

Sexual Health Services

Sexual Health Services is defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to include: HIV and other STI testing and treatment; pregnancy testing; access to condoms and condom compatible lubricants, access to contraceptives other than condoms; Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination, and medications to prevent the spread of HIV.

Condom Access Goals for Condom Availability:

- A. As part of a comprehensive sexual health program, RUHS shall provide condoms in locations that are readily accessible for students,

without unnecessary barriers to obtaining condoms or stigma surrounding access. Condom Availability Program (October, 2021) Page 5 of 7

B. The district shall also provide information about proper condom use that is inclusive of all students in locations where condoms are available.

C. The district will ensure that condoms are available either through funding or donation from community partners. When possible, the district provides a variety of latex, non-latex, internal and external condoms, and dental dams.

Implementation of Condom Availability

A. Each school that serves secondary students will identify suitable locations for students to access condoms in a confidential and safe manner (e.g., school nurse or health office, health education classrooms, athletic training room, school counselor's office). Information about condom use will be made available in these same locations. Other locations may be added as appropriate.

B. School staff in those locations will receive training on how to talk with young people about sexual health and answer questions about condoms. A conversation with staff is not required as part of condom availability; staff may give information and answer questions as requested by students.

C. Information will be provided by the RUHS to students and families to promote awareness of the condom availability program. This will include parent letters, announcements during comprehensive sex education instruction, one-to-one meetings with student support services staff, and/or posters.

D. No secondary student will be refused access to condoms through this program. Minors in Vermont have a legal right to access a full range of reproductive and sexual health services without parent permission. Minors are provided access to condoms in variety of settings and may purchase them without parental consent. (18 V.S.A § 4226)

Program Evaluation

RUHS will use data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the School Health Profiles (released every other year) to assess and inform progress.

Date Warned: 5/11/22

Date Adopted: 6/8/22

*Legal Reference(s): 16 V.S.A. § 906 16 V.S.A. § 131 16 V.S.A. § 132 16 V.S.A. § 134 18 V.S.A. § 4226
Condom Availability Program (October, 2021)*