Communicable Disease Screening and Clearance Protocol for Caregivers

A protocol established and signed by a licensed physician, under which a registered nurse administers a "Free From Communicable Disease" screening tool so that caregivers are assessed and cleared as required by 59A-18.005(6), Florida Administrative Code, and 400.506(6)(a), Florida Statutes.

> The screening tool is based on established communicable disease screening tools already in use by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Mount Sinai Hospital.

PURPOSE

To establish a structured protocol, signed by a physician, under which a registered nurse (RN) administers a "Free From Communicable Disease" screening tool to caregivers.

SCOPE

This protocol applies to an RN administering limited communicable disease screenings to in-home caregivers, acting "pursuant to an established protocol signed by a licensed physician." The activities under this protocol are limited to those authorized by 59A-18.005(6), Florida Administrative Code, and 400.506(6)(a), Florida Statutes.

DEFINITIONS

- **Communicable diseases:** illnesses caused by infectious agents or their toxins that can spread directly or indirectly, such as tuberculosis (TB), influenza, hepatitis and COVID-19.
- **Screening tool:** a limited, structured questionnaire approved by the overseeing physician that assesses general symptoms, exposures and risk factors related to communicable diseases.
- **Health statement:** a document showing that a caregiver completed the screening tool and reported no communicable disease risks.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Physician

- Reviews and approves the screening tool and the health statement, based on current medical guidelines and regulations.

Registered nurse (RN)

- Administers the screening tool to caregivers.
- Follows up on each screening:

- Reviews the caregiver's responses.
- Approves completed screenings that show no indication of communicable disease.
- Declines screenings that show any risk of communicable disease, and refers those caregivers to a health care provider for further evaluation.
- Issues a health statement to each caregiver whose completed screening shows no signs of communicable disease.

PROCEDURE

1. **Initial screening.** The RN administers the Communicable Disease Screening Tool to each caregiver. It covers a symptom review (for example fever, cough or rash) and exposure history (for example contact with infected individuals).
2. **Clinical assessment.** If symptoms, exposures or other concerns are noted, the RN refers the caregiver to a medical professional for further evaluation. No Free From Communicable Disease statement is issued until the caregiver meets the defined criteria.
3. **Documentation.** Caregivers who complete and pass the screening tool are issued a health statement signed by an RN "acting pursuant to an established protocol signed by a licensed physician."
4. **Follow-up.** Caregivers with unclear findings, or findings that show a risk, are referred to a health care provider for further assessment. They have 6 months to receive appropriate treatment or clearance, shown by completing the screening tool again.

REFERENCES

- 59A-18.005(6), Florida Administrative Code
- 400.506(6)(a), Florida Statutes
- MyHealthForm.com screening tool and health statement
- Florida Department of Health, immunizations
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services, communicable disease screening tool
- Mount Sinai, infectious diseases screening tool
- License of the nurse administering the screening (below)

PHYSICIAN APPROVAL

REVIEWED, APPROVED AND SIGNED BY

Kristy Fisher, MD

✓ Digitally signed

Florida medical license	ME161179
Signed and in effect from	November 22, 2025 at 3:15:37 PM EST
Next review	By November 22, 2027 (reviewed and renewed by the overseeing physician every 2 years)

LICENSE VERIFICATION

Both licenses were checked on the Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance license lookup on November 19, 2026. Anyone can confirm them at mqa-internet.doh.state.fl.us by searching for the license number.

Kristy Fisher, MD
Overseeing physician

Profession	Medical Doctor
License number	ME161179
Status	**Clear/Active**
Expires	January 31, 2027
First issued	March 2, 2023
Discipline on file	None
Public complaints	None

Scott Strachan, RN, BSN
Registered nurse administering the screening

Profession	Registered Nurse
License number	RN9224129
Status	**Clear/Active**
Expires	July 31, 2028
First issued	October 18, 2004
Discipline on file	None
Public complaints	None

Health statements issued under this protocol are signed by Scott Strachan, RN, BSN (Florida RN license RN9224129), acting pursuant to this protocol signed by Kristy Fisher, MD (Florida medical license ME161179). Each statement can be checked at myhealthform.com/verify.