# Superintendent’s Memo #158-20

[](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/index.shtml)  
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: July 2, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Sunscreen

The 2020 General Assembly passed [SB 44 (Spruill)](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+SB44) which permits public elementary or secondary schools students to possess or use topical sunscreen, in its original packaging on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored event without a note or prescription from a licensed healthcare provider. The sunscreen must be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for nonprescription use for the purpose of limiting damage to skin caused by exposure to ultraviolet light.

This legislation allows students to self-carry and apply FDA approved sunscreen products on the school bus, on school property or during school events. This is a change from previous guidelines which required a note from the parent or healthcare provider in order for a student to use or apply sunscreen products while at school.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact Tracy White, MA, BSN, RN, School Health Specialist, Virginia Department of Education, by email at [Tracy.White@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Tracy.White@doe.virginia.gov), or by phone at (804) 786-8671, or Joanna Pitts, BSN, NCSN, School Health Nurse Consultant, Virginia Department of Health, by email at [Joanna.Pitts@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Joanna.Pitts@vdh.virginia.gov), or by phone at (804) 864-7929.

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