

STUDENTS

Infectious Diseases

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, the superintendent will implement procedures assuring that all school buildings are in compliance with State Board of Health rules and regulations regarding the presence of persons who have, or have been exposed to, infectious diseases deemed dangerous to the public health. Such procedures shall also prescribe the manner in which safeguards are taken to remove the danger to others.

The district will require that the parent or guardian complete a medical history form at the beginning of each school year. The nurse may use this information to advise the parent or guardian of the need for further medical attention and to plan for potential health problems in school.

The board authorizes the school principal to exclude students who have been diagnosed by a licensed health care provider (LHP) or are suspected of having an infectious disease, in accordance with the regulations within the most current *Infectious Disease Control Guide for School Staff*, provided by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The principal and/or school nurse will report the presence of suspected cases of reportable communicable disease to the appropriate local health authority as required by the State Board of Health. The district and its staff will treat all information concerning a student's present and past health condition as confidential. The principal will cooperate with the local health officials in the investigation of the source of the disease.

The fact that a student has been tested for a sexually transmitted disease, the test result, any information relating to the diagnosis or treatment of a sexually transmitted disease, and any information regarding drug or alcohol treatment for a student must be kept strictly confidential. If the district receives authorization to release information, the district may disclose information pursuant to the restrictions in the release.

The school principal or designee has the authority to send an ill student home without the concurrence of the local health officer, but if the disease is reportable, the district must notify the local health officer. The local health officer is the primary resource in the identification and control of infectious disease in the community and schools. The local health officer, in consultation with the superintendent, can take whatever action is deemed necessary to control or eliminate the spread of disease, including closing a school.

Legal References:	RCW 28A.210.010	Contagious diseases, limiting contact - Rules and regulations
	Chapter 70.02 RCW	Medical records - health care information access and disclosure
	RCW 70.24.290	Public school employees – Rules for blood-borne pathogens education and training
	Chapter 246-110 WAC	Contagious diseases – School districts and day care centers

Management Resources: 2020 – September Policy
Alert
2018 – August Policy
Issue
2013 – February Issue

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