

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

It is the belief of the Board that it has the responsibility to attempt to ensure that all students and staff are provided with a healthy learning environment which would promote their optimum level of health. Learning is more apt to occur when the learner is in a healthy state physically, socially and mentally. The Board will instruct administrators and school health personnel to establish and enforce procedures in accordance with Federal, State and local laws, directives by agencies of the State, Board policy and administrative recommendations.

Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases

Any child suspected of having a casual-contact communicable disease will be referred to a physician for examination and recommendation for exclusion from school. Readmission to school will be allowed by a physician's statement or by consultation with the school nurse. In case of doubt regarding exclusion or readmission, the physician will be consulted.

Exclusion from and readmission to school of students with suspected communicable disease shall be determined by using the Ohio Department of Health publication "Communicable Disease Chart" as a minimal standard. This chart is not an all-inclusive list.

When deemed appropriate, the school nurse will request the building principal to inform parents when a communicable disease occurs in the classroom.

Control of Noncasual-Contact Communicable Diseases

The Board seeks to provide a safe educational environment for both students and staff. It is the Board's intent to ensure that any student or employee who contracts a communicable disease that is not communicated through casual contact will have his/her status in the District examined by a medical evaluation team and that the rights of both the affected individual and those of other members and students will be acknowledge and respected.

For purposes of this policy, "noncasual-contact communicable diseases" shall include:

1. HIV positive individual
2. hepatitis B
3. other like diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health.

Medical Evaluation Team - Non-Casual Communicable Diseases

The Board seeks to keep students and employees in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion. When the Superintendent learns that a student or employee may be infected with a noncasual-contact communicable disease, the Superintendent may convene a medical evaluation team. That team will consist of an administrator assigned by the Superintendent, with prior written permission, the individual's primary care physician, a physician designated by the Board, a school nurse and a public health official. The team has the authority to request additional expertise as may be considered necessary and appropriate. The administrator shall act as chairperson and convene the team.

The medical evaluation team may make such expeditious examination of the employee or student as in its opinion the protection of the health of the pupils, teachers and other school employees require. If it is a student, the parent/guardian must give written permission for this examination to occur. If it is an employee, then that individual must give prior written permission for this examination to occur. The team shall make a written report to the Superintendent which shall specify the following:

1. whether the employee or student has been exposed to or has contracted a communicable disease;
2. the identify of the disease, its nature and prognosis;
3. the nature of the risk of the employee's or student's medical condition (how the disease is transmitted);
4. the duration of the condition (how long the carrier is infectious);
5. the severity of the risk of the medical condition (the potential harm to third parties);
6. the probability the disease will be transmitted and varying degrees of harm and
7. a recommendation regarding future attendance of a student or future employment of an employee.

After considering the report of the medical evaluation team, the Superintendent may assign the student to school unconditionally, to school under restrictive conditions or to home instruction pursuant to the Board's policy on home instruction. With respect to an evaluation of an employee, the Superintendent may assign the employee to return to his/her usual place of employment unconditionally or to a work assignment under restrictive conditions or the Superintendent may seek to have the employee utilize sick leave or be placed on a leave of absence in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement and Ohio law.

The evaluation team shall maintain an active role in monitoring an infected student's or employee's condition. If the Superintendent or any member of the evaluation team believes there has been a change in the student's or employee's condition, the Evaluation Team will reconvene to review the circumstances of the infected person(s). If the review suggests a need to revise the initial recommendation, the evaluation team will do so in a timely manner and direct the recommendation to the Superintendent.

Confidentiality of Non-Casual Communicable Diseases

The Board recognizes the need to protect the individual rights and the health of persons infected with communicable diseases and the rights and health of those not similarly infected. The Board believes that information concerning the health of any employee or student should be treated as confidential information and should be known only to those required to have such information. No person in this setting is required by law to disclose any information with regard to HIV or HEP B status. If an HIV or HEP B positive staff member or the parent/guardian of an HIV or HEP B positive student chooses, the HIV or HEP B positive individual or his/her parent or guardian will make the determination with whom the individual's HIV or HEP B status will be shared. It is in the best interest of the District to have the HIV or HEP B positive individual specify in writing with whom his/her HIV or HEP B status can be shared and how this information will be provided to the specified individuals.

Communicable Diseases Education Program

The Board directs the administration to develop a program for educating persons regarding communicable diseases. The program should provide a plan for making information about communicable diseases available to students and employees. The program should include in-service training for teachers, administrators and non-teaching employees. The Board and administration will assist other public agencies in providing information about communicable diseases to the public. In developing such programs, it is expected that information from sources such as the National Centers for Disease Control, the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education will be utilized. One of the purposes of the education program will be to help dispel fears based upon erroneous information or a lack of information.

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CROSS REF.: JHCA, Physical Examinations of Students
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