

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Purpose:

The Board has a twofold responsibility to protect the health of students and employees from the risks posed by infectious disease and uphold the rights of affected individuals to privacy and confidentiality, to attend school and to be treated in a nondiscriminatory manner; and to protect affected individuals from normal childhood illnesses that could be harmful because of their illness.

Immunization:

Students cannot attend school unless immunized as required by Missouri law.

Universal Precautions:

The district requires all staff to routinely observe universal precautions to prevent exposure to disease-causing organisms, and the district will provide necessary equipment/supplies to implement universal precautions.

Categories of Potential Risk:

Students with infectious diseases that can be transmissible in school, and/or athletic settings (such as, but not limited to, chicken pox, influenza and conjunctivitis) should be managed as specified in: (a) the most current edition of the Missouri Department of Health document entitled: Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases: A Guide for School Administrators, Nurse, Teachers, and Day Care Operators and (b) documents referenced in 19 CSR 20-20.030.

A student infected with a bloodborne pathogen such as Hepatitis B virus (HBV), Hepatitis C virus (HVC), or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) poses no risk of transmission through casual contact to other persons in a school setting. Students infected with one of these viruses shall be allowed to attend school without any restrictions which are based solely on the infection. The district cannot require any medical evaluations or tests for such diseases.

Exceptional Situations:

There are certain specific types of behaviors (for example, biting or scratching) or conditions (for example, frequent bleeding episodes or uncoverable, oozing skin lesions) which could potentially be associated with transmission of both bloodborne, and non-bloodborne pathogens. No student, regardless

District Code:

of whether he or she is known to be infected with such pathogens, should be allowed to attend school unless those behaviors or conditions are either absent or appropriately controlled in a way that avoids unnecessary exposure.

In these exceptional instances, an alternative education setting may be warranted. In certain instances, a designated school administrator may want to convene a Review Committee. The number of persons on the Review Committee should be limited to include:

1. the parent(s)/legal guardian(s)
2. medical personnel (student's physician, school nurse director of health services)
3. building administrator
4. superintendent and/or designee.

Local health department officials may be consulted and/or included as members of the Review Team.

If the student is identified as having an educational disability, any changes of placement would need to be addressed through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process. In the case of a student who is disabled, but not identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, any change in placement would need to be addressed through a multi-disciplinary team meeting.

Specific mechanisms should be in place to ensure the following are consistently done:

1. All episodes of biting, and all children who exhibit repeated instances of significant aggressive behavior, should be reported to the designated school administrator.
2. The school nurse, and the designated school administrator, when appropriate, should be informed of any child who has recurrent episodes of bleeding or who has uncoverable, oozing skin lesions.
3. The school nurse, and the designated administrator when appropriate, should be promptly informed of any child with an illness characterized by a rash.
4. The school nurse and designated school administrator shall be informed promptly of any instance in which the significant potential for disease transmission occurs.

Confidentiality:

The superintendent or designee shall ensure that student confidentiality rights are strictly observed in accordance with law. Missouri law (191.689RSMo.) (1994) identified two groups of people within a school system who could be informed of the identity of a student with HIV infection on a "need to know" basis. They are:

District Code:

1. Those designated by the school district to determine the fitness of an individual to attend school (see recommended Review Committee above); and
2. Those who have a reasonable need to know the identity of the child in order to provide proper health care
 - a. school nurse
 - b. Review team members
 - c. IEP team (if applicable)

Education - Student:

All students should receive age-appropriate information about the prevention and control of communicable diseases. Instruction is incorporated within a comprehensive school health curriculum.

Reporting and Disease Outbreak Control:

Reporting and disease outbreak control measures will be implemented in accordance with state and local law and Department of Health rules governing the control of communicable and other diseases dangerous to public health, and any applicable rules distributed by the appropriate county or city health department.

Notification:

When the superintendent supplies a copy of this policy, adopted by the Pattonville Board of Education, to the Missouri Department of Health (DOH), Pattonville will be entitled to confidential notice of the identity of any district child reported to the Department as HIV-infected and known to be enrolled in the district. The parent or guardian is also required by law to provide such notice to the superintendent.

Review:

The district shall periodically review its policies and procedures and make revisions when necessary.

Adopted: February 10, 1987

Revised: February 24, 1998

Cross reference: JHCC, JHCC-R
Center for Disease Control Report on Pre-School Program
Special Report 9/17/85