

Communicable Diseases

Board Policy: A-17
Adopted: December 14, 1992
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I. General Policy Statement

The Board recognizes that it is necessary to have uniform regulations regarding the prevention, intervention and treatment of communicable diseases. A communicable disease is defined as an illness due to an infectious agent, or its toxic products, which is transmitted directly or indirectly to a person from an infected person or animal. This policy contains the regulations that are to be followed regarding students and employees with communicable diseases. The principal of each school shall also establish procedures to implement the regulations of this policy.

If an individual (student or staff member) presents himself/herself with any of the conditions below, the principal or the school nurse will be notified. The principal in consult with the school nurse may exclude from school those students and employees exhibiting symptoms consistent with the following conditions until a diagnosis has been made. These regulations apply to students and employees alike unless otherwise noted.

II. Regulations

- A. Chicken pox: Individuals with chicken pox shall be excluded from school until all blisters have formed dry scabs (at least 5 days after vesicles first appear). Individuals who have been vaccinated with Varicella vaccine and break out in a full rash are subject to the above guideline also.
- B. Common Cold: Individuals with a common cold may attend school unless they have a fever over 100 degrees F.
- C. Conjunctivitis (pink eye): Individuals shall be excluded from school if there is redness, swelling or yellow discharge of the eye. Individuals may return to school with physician or Health Department approval. Exclusion from school shall be a minimum of 24 hours after the beginning of antibiotic treatment.
- D. Coxsackievirus A16 (Hand, Foot, and Mouth disease): Individuals with Coxsackievirus A16 shall be excluded from school until free of fever as per fever protocol.

- E. Fever: Individuals with a fever over 100 degrees shall be excluded from school unless they have physician approval to attend school.
- F. Fifth Disease: (“slapped-cheek” appearance, lacy rash) Individuals with Fifth disease may attend school. Anyone who may be pregnant should consult their physician if they are exposed.
- G. Hepatitis A: Individuals shall be excluded from school until physician or Health Department approval is given for their return. The exclusion period shall be a minimum of seven (7) days after jaundice appears.
- H. Hepatitis B or C: School attendance for individuals with Hepatitis B or C is governed by Board Policies SA-7 and P-14.
- I. HIV/AIDS: School attendance for individuals with HIV/AIDS is governed by Board Policies SA-7 and P-14.
- J. Herpes: Individuals with Herpes Simplex infections on the lips (fever blisters) can attend school. Herpes lesions on other exposed areas of the body (such as the face) must be dried before school attendance is allowed. Contact sports, gym class, and pool time are not allowed when any herpes lesions are present.
- K. Impetigo: Individuals with multiple draining lesions shall be excluded from school until a physician permits return. If oral antibiotics are prescribed, an individual must take them for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school. Individuals with a few lesions must be treated with an antibiotic ointment and can remain in school at the discretion of the school nurse.
- L. Influenza: Individuals with influenza shall be excluded from school during their peak period of symptoms (fever, coughing, etc.). The peak period of symptoms usually last three 3 to 5 days.
- M. Listeria: (An illness transmitted by the oral-fecal route) Individuals shall be excluded from school until physician and/or Health Department approval is given for their return.
- N. Measles (rubeola/rubella): Individuals shall be excluded from school until physician or the Health Department approval is given for their return. The exclusion shall be a minimum of five (5) days after the appearance of the rash.
- O. Mononucleosis: Individuals with mononucleosis may attend school.

- P. Pediculosis (lice): Individuals with pediculosis (lice infestation) will be sent home for treatment immediately and may return to school when they are nit free and have been given clearance by a physician, the Public Health Department, the school nurse or designated person at the school. See Board Policy SA-4 for specific regulations.
- Q. Ringworm: Individuals with ringworm may attend school. Active lesions should be covered when possible. No participation in gym, pool or contact sports is allowed while open lesions are present.
- R. Salmonella: (An illness transmitted by the oral-fecal route) Individuals shall be excluded from school until physician and/or Health Department approval is given for their return.
- S. Scabies: Individuals shall be excluded from school until the initial treatment is completed.
- T. Shigella: (An illness transmitted by the oral-fecal route) Individuals shall be excluded from school until physician and/or Health Department approval is given for their return.
- U. Shingles: Individuals with shingles shall be excluded from school until all blisters have formed dry scabs (usually within one week). In situations where the blisters are covered, or the physician so orders, an earlier return to school may be allowed.
- V. Streptococcal and Staphylococcal Infections including skin lesions such as boils and infected wounds: Individuals shall be excluded from school until they have been treated with an oral prescription antibiotic for 24 hours and are free of fever.
- W. Tuberculosis (Active TB): Individuals with active TB shall be excluded from school until a physician or the Health Department approves their return.