

STUDENT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The board recognizes the need and right of all children to receive free and appropriate education. The board further recognizes its responsibility to provide a healthy environment for all students and school employees.

Students who are afflicted with or have been exposed to a communicable, contagious, or infectious disease, who are infected with communicable parasites, or who are liable to transmit such a disease or parasite, may be excluded from school attendance.

A determination of whether an affected student be excluded from the classroom or school activities shall be made on a case-by-case basis, under the direction of the building administrator or designee with consultation from the school nurse or Health Services as appropriate.

MAKING THE DETERMINATION

In making the determination, the following will be considered:

The characteristics disease; the medical condition of the student; the expected type(s) of interaction with others in the school setting; the impact on both the affecting student and others in that setting; the South Dakota Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control guidelines and policies; the recommendation of the County Health Officer, which may be controlling.

In making the determination, assistance may be requested from the State Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control, or other experts.

If it is determined that the student will not be permitted to attend classes or participate in school activities, additional medical information may be needed before the student may return to school. If an affected student is not permitted to attend classes for ten (10) consecutive schools days, arrangements will be made to provide an alternate educational program.

REPORTING

Any teacher or other school employee who identifies or suspects that a student has a communicable disease, syndrome, or condition declared by the State Department of Health to be dangerous to public health will report orally or in writing this information to the building principal or superintendent. The principal or superintendent will determine whether the suspected or identified disease or condition is one declared to be dangerous to public health as a Category I or Category II reportable disease or condition according to the south Dakota Department of Health Administrative Rules 44:20:01:03 and 44:20:01:04. The principal, superintendent, or his or her designee, will report this information to the State Department of Health using a method designated by the State Department of Health. Category I diseases will be reported immediately. Category II diseases and conditions and any vaccine adverse event will be reporting within three (3) days after recognition or strong suspicion of disease or condition. The report will contain the following information:

1. The disease or condition diagnosed or suspected;
2. The student's name, age, date of birth, sex, race, and address;
3. The date of onset or diagnosis of illness and whether the student is hospitalized and, if so, where;
4. Any pertinent laboratory results;
5. Public health measures given;
6. The name and address of the attending physician; and
7. The name and telephone number of the person making the report.

The State Department of Health may modify or delete any of the required information obtained in the report, requirements or reporting, and categorization of reportable diseases and conditions.

CONFIDENTIALTY

If the potential for communicability is a factor, the public may be notified of the presence of the disease or condition and the possibility of transmittal or impact on others, if any. Personally identifiable information of a student who is or may be affected with a communicable disease will not be revealed to the public.

If the student is permitted to remain in the school setting, information will be provided, as appropriate, to school employees who have regular contact with the student, as to the student's medical condition and other factors needed for consideration in carrying out job responsibilities. Information of a student who has been identified as or suspected of having any reportable disease or condition will be reported, as appropriate, to the State Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control, or other experts.

HEALTH GUIDELINES

It shall be the duty of the superintendent to establish regulations in accordance with this policy. The regulations shall contain infection control practices to be observed within the schools and may include guidelines to be used as a resource in determinations related to school attendance.

LEGAL REF.: SDCL 13-28-7.3

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