

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date Submitted: March 17, 2009 Date Reviewed: March 17, 2009	Number: 700-42
Subject: Communicable Diseases - Staff	Date Approved: May 26, 2009 Date Revised: Date Effective: May 26, 2009

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish regulations and procedures to assist school personnel in controlling the spread of communicable diseases within the school system.

2. PROCEDURE

The Somerset County Public Schools will work collaboratively with the Somerset County Health Department. The local health department is designated by COMAR to manage communicable disease issues. Out breaks of reportable communicable diseases shall be immediately reported to the Somerset County Health Department.

When an employee is suspected of having a communicable disease, the Nurse Manager, along with consultation of other appropriate school and Health Department personnel, will determine if it is necessary to exclude an employee from work. The employee's right to privacy must be maintained. The decision whether to share information concerning an employee's health status should be made on a case by case basis with the Administrator making the final decision in consultation with the Nurse Manager.

Decisions about when an employee is permitted to return to work will be made based on the following, in consultation with the Somerset County Health Department:

- 1) The communicable disease is ruled out by the physician, or
- 2) The period of communicability has passed, or
- 3) The individual is receiving appropriate treatment, or
- 4) A verification for return to work is received from the physician

Information and/or in service training will be provided by school health services staff for school personnel concerning communicable diseases, modes of transmission, and preventive measures, including proper hand washing techniques, good hygiene practices, and universal precautions. The local health department will serve as a consult and educational resource for the health services staff.

References: Annotated Code of Maryland
6-408, 6-510