

Watertown School District 14-4

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE POLICY

The Board recognizes that, to the extent possible, all students and employees (Watertown School District and LATI) should be permitted to participate in a normal classroom/work setting. The board further recognizes its responsibility to provide a healthy environment for students and school employees.

Definition – For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

1. STUDENT – any individual attending classes or participating in school activities provided by Watertown School District No. 14-4, Codington County, South Dakota.
2. EMPLOYEE – any person who receives remuneration from Watertown School District No. 14-4, Codington County, South Dakota.
3. INFECTED INDIVIDUAL – an infected employee or student with a medical diagnosis of any communicable disease identified by the SD Department of Health.

The determination of whether an infected student should be excluded from the classroom or school activity, or whether an infected employee should be excluded from work activities shall be made in a case-by-case basis under the direction of the building principal/building administrator or nurse. For professional assistance, the principal may consult with a team.

The team may consist of:

1. A representative from the State Health Department and/or local individual with expertise in the given area;
2. The infected individual's physician;
3. The infected individual, parent(s), guardian(s), or representative;
4. School principal/building administrator or designee;
5. School nurse;
6. Superintendent or designee; and
7. Appropriate school district personnel as appointed by the superintendent.

The team shall consider:

1. The behavior, developmental level, and medical condition of the infected individual;
2. The physical condition of the infected individual;

3. The expected type(s) of interaction with others in the school setting;
4. The degree to which the pathogen is transmittable to others based on current knowledge;
5. The impact on both the infected individual and others in that setting;
6. The South Dakota Department of Health policy and guidelines; and
7. May additionally request assistance from the South Dakota State Health Department.

The following health guidelines for school/work attendance shall apply and specific needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. This policy shall apply to all communicable diseases including but not limited to the following;

South Dakota DOH Recommendations for Exclusion from a School Setting
(<https://doh.sd.gov/family/childhood/school-illness-exclusion-recommendations.aspx>)

Information concerning infected individuals shall be kept in strict confidence by school personnel.

Students or employees infected with AIDS/ARC or HTLV-III antibody are required to notify the superintendent upon confirmation of such infection.

If a student is infected AIDS/ARC or the HTLV-III antibody and is not permitted to attend class or participate in school activities, the district will provide the infected student with an appropriate education program.

The following procedures shall apply to employees infected with AIDS/ARC or the HTLV-III antibody:

- A. The superintendent may request a medical evaluation of the employee's physical ability to perform their job or if the disability poses a substantial possibility of harm to others in the work place. During the evaluation period, the employee may be excluded from work by the superintendent with full pay and benefits.
- B. The Board shall weigh the risks and benefits to both the employee and to others prior to making a final determination concerning the employment disposition of such employee.

LEGAL REF.: SDCL 13-28-7.3

Policy

Adopted: 12/8/87

Revised: 1/12/09; 11/12/06; 8/12/19