

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The Wise County School Board recognizes the importance of protecting its students and employees from the transmission of communicable diseases which present a threat to their health and safety while also protecting the legitimate interests and rights of students and employees with communicable diseases. The Board directs the superintendent to act in compliance with applicable law to exclude from school attendance or work in the school setting any person who has a communicable disease. Both the decision to remove the student or employee and the decision to readmit the student or to permit the employee to return to work are made by the superintendent based upon consultation with the local health department, the student's or employee's physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner and/or other medical authorities. (See policy JHCCA Blood Borne Contagious or Infectious Diseases).

The identity of a student who has a communicable disease is kept confidential and revealed only in accordance with state law. An alternative educational program is made available to any student whose removal pursuant to this policy is expected to result in a prolonged absence from school or where otherwise required by law.

Administrative procedures concerning the exclusion of employees and students with communicable diseases are consistent with the requirements of law, including the policies of the Virginia Department of Education and reflect current medical knowledge and research.

Amended: July 3, 2003
 Amended: August 2, 2005
 Amended: August 22, 2011
 Amended: August 11, 2015

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-254, 22.1-271.3, 22.1-272, 32.1-36.1, 54.1-2952.2, 54.1-2957.02.

8 VAC 20-131-180.

Cross Ref.:	EBAB	Possible Exposure to Viral Infections
	EBBB	Personnel Training—Viral Infections
	IGBG	Homebound, Correspondence and Alternative Means of Instruction
	JHCCA	Blood Borne Contagious or Infectious Diseases

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These procedures are in place for school system teachers and administrators who identify or suspect communicable disease in the school or workplace.

1. Teachers and administrators shall report suspected cases of communicable disease to their immediate supervisors who will direct the concern to the Superintendent at which time the Superintendent may require a medical evaluation of the student or employee and can convene the Communicable Disease Review Panel as needed.
2. Most communicable diseases which occur in the school setting are short-term illnesses which require 1-5 days exclusion from school. In these cases, it is practical and reasonable for the principal or his/her designee and/or the school nurse to make the initial decision to exclude a child from school attendance. In cases of exclusion, the parents shall be called. In situations in which the child's private physician has directed that the child stay home for a longer period of time, and this directive is uncontested, there is no additional requirement other than the provision of alternative education, if appropriate.
3. The remainder of these administrative regulations pertain to cases in which there may be prolonged or recurring exclusion from the school setting due to a student or employee's having a long-term disease which has the potential for communicability.
4. If it is the judgment of the local Health Department, after consultation with private medical doctors and/or other public health authorities, that a communicable disease is present in the school division and that there is significant risk of transmission thereof or that the risk of transmission is unknown, the Health Department shall advise the Superintendent of Schools who will make the decision to exclude the student or employee from the school setting and will convene the Communicable Disease Review Panel if needed.
5. The Superintendent shall establish a Communicable Disease Review Panel consisting of the local Health Department Director, or designee; the Associate Superintendent and the Superintendent's designee. The Superintendent shall convene the Communicable Disease Review Panel whenever the decision to exclude a student or employee with a communicable disease is questionable or contested. Each case shall be handled individually. The Communicable Disease Review Panel shall review all pertinent information and make its recommendations to the Superintendent. Persons called on for information to this panel may include, but not be limited to, the attending physician, the principal, teacher(s), and parents of the student. In the case of an employee, contributing persons include the attending physician and the immediate supervisor. The Review Panel should be established immediately upon approval of these regulations

6. Employees with communicable diseases and parents of students with communicable diseases shall be notified of the five-day time limit for submitting any medical evaluations to the Communicable Disease Review Panel. Medical evaluation(s) submitted to the Panel will be considered before the Panel makes its recommendation on a case. The Panel shall meet, review information, and make recommendations to the Superintendent within 5 school days following exclusion of the affected student or employee. The recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, a timetable on future school presence.
7. Within 5 school days following his/her receipt of the Panel's report, the Superintendent shall notify the parents of the affected student, or notify the affected employee of his/her decision to re-admit or to continue to exclude the student from school attendance or the employee from work in the school setting.
8. Confidentiality and the right to privacy regarding the affected student or employee shall be maintained by all persons involved. Information regarding students or school employees suspected of or diagnosed as having a communicable disease shall be released only through the office of the Superintendent of Schools.
9. The Wise County School System shall institute preventive measures to control communicable disease transference. Such preventive measures shall include the education of employees and students about communicable diseases and the methods of reducing the risks of transmission. Employees shall be taught the proper methods of cleaning up spilled body fluids, collecting trash and disinfecting areas which might be sources of contamination.
10. The Superintendent shall advise the school board to regularly examine its policy and regulations on communicable diseases as new knowledge regarding communicable diseases becomes known.

Regulations for School Attendance of Children with Human Immunodeficiency Virus

The Wise County School Division will work cooperatively with the Wise County Health Department to ensure compliance with Virginia Code 22.1-271.3 for school attendance of children infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

- A. Students are expected to be in compliance with an immunization schedule (Article 2, 22.1-271.2): however, some required immunizations may be harmful to the health of the student who is HIV infected or has AIDS. Students who are HIV infected or have AIDS may get an exemption from complying with the requirements. School personnel will cooperate with public health personnel in completing and coordinating immunization data, exemptions, and exclusions, including immunization forms.

- B. Mandatory screening for HIV infection is not warranted as a condition for school entry. Upon learning a student is HIV infected or has AIDS, the superintendent will consult with the individual's family and physician or a health official from the local health department to determine whether the student is well enough to stay in school. Since it is known that HIV is not transmitted through casual contact, any student who is HIV infected will continue education in a regular classroom assignment unless the health status interferes significantly with performance. If a change in the student's program is necessary, the superintendent or designee, family, and physician or health official will develop an individual plan which is medically, legally, and educationally sound. If the HIV student is receiving special education services, the services will be in agreement with established policies.
- C. Parents/guardians may appeal decisions for restriction or exclusion to the Communicable Disease Review Panel as set forth above.
- D. All persons privileged with any medical information about HIV infected students shall be required to treat all proceedings, discussions, and documents as confidential information. Individuals will be informed of the situation on a "Need to Know" basis with written consent of the parent/guardian.
- E. Universal precautions for handling blood will be implemented within the school setting and on buses. To ensure implementation of the proper standard operating procedures for all body fluids, the guidelines from the Virginia Department of Health will be followed. Inservice training will be provided to all school personnel. Training will include local division policies; etiology, transmission, prevention, and risk reduction of HIV; standard operating procedures for handling blood and body fluids; and community resources available for information and referral. Periodic updates will be supplied through inservice or memoranda.
- F. Comprehensive and age-appropriate instruction on the principal modes by which HIV is spread and the best methods for the reduction and prevention of AIDS are required to encourage the support and protection of the HIV infected student. To enhance school attendance, the school division will collaborate with public and private organizations in the provision of support services to HIV infected students.

Issued:

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Sec. 22.1-271.3, 22.1-272, 32.1-46