

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The policy of the West Salem School District, is to be in compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and to work in cooperation with state and local public health agencies, to establish and maintain adequate health standards for an appropriate school environment, to promote the good health of students and staff, and to educate students and staff in disease prevention methods and sound health practices.

In an effort to maintain a safe and healthful school environment, the District will provide educational opportunities to students and staff regarding measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of contracting or transmitting communicable diseases. The District will practice recognized health safety measures.

In recognition that an individual's health status is personal and private, the District will handle information regarding student and staff health in accord with state and federal law and district policies regarding communicable disease and confidentiality of student and staff records, while at the same time complying with applicable public health reporting requirements.

EDUCATIONAL AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES

1. The District will ensure that all examinations and immunizations required of students and staff have been obtained, and will be kept on file in each building. Parent/Guardian shall file current immunization records with the school by the first enrollment day. Standard procedures provided by the Center of Disease Control, La Crosse County Health and Human Services.
2. The nurse shall be responsible for the appropriate maintenance of a health station. The nurse will have available a list of communicable diseases as defined by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services (Communicable Diseases from the Wisconsin Administrative Code). Information regarding the suppression and control of communicable diseases is available for review by interested students, parents and staff.
3. Information regarding suppression and control of communicable diseases will be included as a regular part of the educational curriculum for students.
4. Information regarding suppression and control of communicable diseases will be available to, and periodically as needed and/or as appropriate, included in training programs for all staff.

5. First aid kits and other supplies and equipment appropriate to reducing the risk of transmission of communicable diseases in the school environment, as determined by the nurse serving the school, in cooperation with the local public health officials, will be provided.

PROCEDURES FOR THE TREATMENT OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE WITHIN THE
SCHOOL SETTING

1. Students who are suspected of having a communicable disease may be sent home for diagnosis and treatment.
 - a. Prior to sending a student home for diagnosis and treatment or excluding him/her from school, the parent/guardian will be contacted for information.
 - b. If a student is sent home or excluded from school attendance, a building administrator, school nurse, or designee will immediately notify the student's parent/guardian of the action and the reason for it.
2. The determination of exclusion from school will be made by a building administrator in consultation with the school nurse, and if necessary with the public health officials.
 - a. A student may be excluded from school when there is a significant health risk to others in the normal course of his/her day.
 - 1) Students in the infectious stage of an oral/fecal communicable disease who are unable to hygienically manage their bowel and bladder functions.
 - 2) Students in the infectious stage of a serious airborne transmitted communicable disease.
 - 3) Students with a disease that may be transmitted by blood, body fluids, who have open lesions and whose developmental level or behavior patterns makes it difficult to prevent spreading the underlying infection.
 - 4) Students who have a nuisance disease that may be transmitted through direct contact with others.
 - b. A student may not be excluded from school when the risk of transmission of a communicable disease is negligible in the school setting such as:
 - 1) Transmission can only occur through sexual or intimate contact
 - 2) Transmission can be controlled through education of a child and staff, and provisions of supplies to carry out preventive measures including universal precautions.

Note: Students diagnosed with HIV infection will be allowed to attend school with their regular classroom setting unless they meet one of the specific reasons for exclusion.
3. A parent/guardian or adult student who disputes the decision to exclude a student from school attendance may appeal the decision by following the Districts appeal process. A student may be excluded from school throughout the appeal process except as prohibited by law.

4. Staff may be excluded from work and work-related activities if they are suspected or diagnosed with a communicable disease that poses a significant health risk to others or that renders them unable to adequately perform their duties. Staff excluded due to these concerns may appeal their exclusion as established by administrative procedures.

Staff may be required to have a medical examination to provide a physician's statement. A second physician's opinion can also be required if necessary.

STUDENT IMMUNIZATION PROCEDURES

1. The school shall notify parents/guardians about the state immunization law. The school nurse shall be responsible for obtaining and transmitting information regarding legal requirements to parents/guardians.

Information regarding immunization requirements shall be given to parents/guardians of kindergartners during the 4-Year-Old kindergarten registration and/or at the time of registration into the school district.

2. The school nurse shall be responsible for monitoring the status of students and tracking compliance with the state law requirements.
 - a. Immunization records of kindergartners and new students shall be reviewed and the names of those students who are noncompliant shall be recorded. Parents will be notified of noncompliance in writing.
 - b. Notices shall be sent to parents/guardians of noncompliant students by the 15th and 25th school day after they were enrolled.
 - c. If a student is not in compliance with the law within 30 days of admission, the school may exclude the student from the school and/or send another notice.
 - d. Noncompliant students shall be reported to the district attorney's office by the 60th school day after they were enrolled.
 - e. The State of Wisconsin requires school districts with less than 99% compliance in the previous school year to exclude all students in Grades K-5 who are not in compliance with immunization laws. Therefore, any student not up to date by the 30th day of school in Grades K-5 will be excluded for a period of up to 10 days. Notices will be sent to families of students as well as posted in the district newsletter and in all building handbooks.

3. The school nurse shall provide copies of the annual school immunization plan and a written report of the noncompliance students (DOH4212) to all building principals and the district administrator.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND REPORTING

1. The District will maintain the confidentiality of the health status and records of any students or staff as mandated by law. Information pertaining to such records will not be disclosed except to the extent required and/or permitted by law and essential to the safe conduct of the District's operation.
2. Required reports for communicable disease conditions will be filed with the local public health official.
3. The school nurse, or designated staff, shall function as the District's liaison with students, parents, staff, administration, physicians, public health officials and the community concerning communicable disease issues in the school environment.
4. The School Health Advisory Committee (school nurse, medical advisor, school district administration, parents, and community members) shall review this policy annually prior to the end of each school year.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

Wis. Stat.252.21- Definitions and Responsibilities
and Wis. Admin. Code HSS 145 Communicable Disease
Wis. Stat.120.12 (16) (a) (b) - School Immunization Plan
Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 1974)

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