

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

In adopting this regulation, Colorado Springs School District 11 (the "District") seeks to promote the health, safety and welfare of its students, staff and the community, while striving to ensure that no student is unnecessarily excluded from school or school activities. Universal precautions should be followed with all students along with guidelines from the most recent publication of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's "Infectious Diseases in Child Care and School Settings" and directives from the El Paso County Department of Public Health and Environment. The term, "infectious disease," as used herein, includes not only those diseases which are readily transmitted to others, but also those which are not readily transmitted. District staff who become aware that a student has an infectious disease which may require that the student be excluded from school or school activities should notify the school nurse and principal. Whether an infectious disease is readily transmitted will be determined by one of the District's school nurses in collaboration with the school principal. Whether an infectious disease may require exclusion from the school setting or school activities will be guided by review of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's "*Infectious Diseases in Child Care and School Settings*" guidelines and/or consultation with the El Paso County Department of Public Health and Environment

1. Infectious Diseases Which Are Readily Transmitted

Generally (but not always), infectious diseases which are readily transmitted to others in a school setting are of short duration and pose a relatively low threat to long-term health. Examples of such diseases include influenza, chicken pox, whooping cough, and strep throat. Infectious diseases which are readily transmitted will be handled in accordance with guidelines developed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Students exhibiting such diseases may be sent home by the school principal, and may be prohibited from returning to school until the student no longer poses a health risk to other students and staff. The District may require the student to provide a physician's statement authorizing his/her return to school.

2. Infectious Diseases Which Are Not Readily Transmitted

Generally (but not always), infectious diseases which are not readily transmitted to others in a school setting have a long duration which may last over a lifetime and pose a relatively high threat to long-term health. Examples of such diseases include HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B. The school principal is responsible for determining whether a student with an infectious disease which is not readily transmitted should be excluded from school or from participation in school activities. Such determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis and will be based upon the recommendations of school officials, the school nurse, the student's physician, the student's parent or guardian, a representative of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and any other individuals deemed necessary by the school principal.

In making decisions as to whether a student should be excluded from school or participation in school activities, the principal and the individuals listed above should consider, among other things, whether the student poses a significant risk of transmitting the disease to other students and staff. Because these diseases (especially HIV) are generally not readily transmitted in the

school setting, the fact that a student has been diagnosed with such a disease, by itself may not be a sufficient justification for excluding the student from school or participation in school activities. Nevertheless, there may be some circumstances warranting such action.

After making a decision as to whether to exclude a student from school or participation in school activities, the school principal may periodically consult with the individuals listed above to assist him/her in determining whether the student's medical condition has changed.

If the school principal believes that a student poses a significant risk of transmitting a disease to others, the school principal may temporarily exclude the student from school or participation in school activities until the school principal is able to consult with the individuals listed above and render a final determination.

Because situations involving students with infectious diseases which are not readily transmittable arise infrequently, school principals should contact the Education Director of Special Education prior to taking action under this section.

3. Appeals

If a parent or guardian of a student with an infectious disease disagrees with the determination of the school principal, the parent or guardian may contact the Director of Equal Opportunity Programs and Ombudservices to determine whether the student is entitled to the procedural protections set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

4. Confidentiality

District staff are expected to maintain the confidentiality of student medical information in accordance with applicable law.

5. Universal Precautions

District staff are expected to follow universal precautions and other applicable guidelines when coming into contact with the blood or other bodily fluids of any person regardless of whether that person is known to have or is suspected of having an infectious disease.

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