

EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH COMMUNICABLE AND CHRONIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Section I – Communicable Diseases

A student with a communicable disease (chicken pox, measles, etc.) shall remain at home until the disease is no longer a threat to that student or others. Principals should report to the health department all cases of communicable disease which might pose a threat to the health of the school or community. When concerned with a unique individual case, the welfare of all students and employees should be the prime consideration. Each individual case will be resolved in consultation with the Mississippi State Department of Health.

Section II - Chronic Infectious Diseases

The district recognizes that the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is not transmitted through casual contact, and therefore, the child's HIV status is not reason in itself to exclude from school or otherwise segregate the child while in school. The district also recognizes the need to maintain the confidentiality and privacy of infected students, and treats with strict confidence a child's HIV status.

Decisions regarding a student infected with HIV or other infectious disease shall be made on an individual basis with regard to the behavior, physical condition, neurological development, and the expected type of interaction with others in the educational setting. When making such a decision, the child's doctor, parent or guardian, principal, and other central office personnel should be included in the decision process. In each case, the risks and benefits to both the infected student and to others must be weighed. As conditions change, cases may be reevaluated. Should it be determined, based on medical information, that attendance at school poses a risk or threat of transmission to others, an appropriate alternative education program may be established for that student.

The district shall observe the confidentiality and privacy of students with infectious diseases, and in doing so, shall involve only those personnel who have a need to know about the student's medical condition. Those building level personnel typically include only the principal, nurse, teacher, and teacher assistant. The child's physician may also be consulted when determining who needs to know the child's medical condition.

The district requires all personnel to routinely observe universal precautions to prevent exposure to disease-causing pathogens. The precautions should be consistently used to care for or clean up after any and all students who have an accident or injury at school. These procedures include the following:

1. Employees caring for students who emanate blood, body fluid, or waste, regardless of whether they are infected with a chronic disease, shall wear latex gloves.
2. Latex gloves shall be worn when cleaning up blood spills, vomit, or any body fluids, and persons having contact with such fluids must wash their hands immediately.
3. Blood-soaked items or items that have come into contact with body fluids or wastes shall be placed in leak-proof bags for disposition.

Each building principal shall maintain an adequate supply of items needed to clean up spills.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi

LEGAL REF: Section 37-7-301, Mississippi Code of 1972

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