

STUDENTS

Communicable Diseases

I. Definition

"Communicable Diseases" are those diseases identified by the State and County Health Department as reportable diseases under Chapter 143 of the state statutes. The Director of Pupil Services & Special Education shall maintain an updated list of diseases and disseminate this list to building principals and the school nurse.

"Parent" means a biological parent, a husband who has consented to the artificial insemination of his wife under s.891.40, Stats., a male who is presumed to be the father under s. 891.41, Stats., or adjudicated the child's father either under s. 767.51, Stats., or by final order or judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction in another state, a parent by adoption, a guardian, a person acting as a parent of a child or a surrogate parent. The term does not include any person whose parental rights have been terminated or the state or a county or a child welfare agency if a child was made a ward of the state or a county or child welfare agency under ch. 880, Stats., or if a child has been placed in the legal custody of the state or a county or a child welfare agency under ch. 48 or ch. 767, Stats.

II. Educational Setting for Children with Communicable Diseases

Children with diseases deemed not communicable in the classroom setting should be allowed, as a general rule, to attend school in their regular classroom setting. They should be considered eligible for all rights, privileges, and services provided by law and local school district policy unless the school district is directed by the Marathon County Health Department to change the child's educational setting or the district feels the student's safety is at risk. In choosing the appropriate setting for education, both the risks to the infected child and others in the setting and the benefits of an unrestricted setting and socialization must be weighed on an individual basis. The district will follow guidelines established by the Health Department regarding educational settings for children with communicable diseases.

III. Reporting and Verification Procedures

All staff are to report cases of suspected communicable diseases to the School District Nurse. The nurse will:

- A. Contact the parent of the student involved and question the parent. The parent is responsible to verify in writing from a physician the presence or absence of a reportable communicable disease. The nurse shall keep the principal informed of suspected and/or identified communicable disease reports.
- B. The principal has the authority to exclude a child from attendance at all school related functions until the parent has verified the presence or absence of the disease, and the Marathon County Health Department has indicated the proper procedure. Homebound instruction may be provided in such cases after 15 school days if the student's condition allows the instruction.
- C. The principal will consult with the the school nurse in the investigation of the situation regarding an individual child. The school nurse will advise the principal, and, upon verification of the disease, do the following:
 1. Report the disease to the proper authorities.
 2. Notify the parents of other students who are known to be especially at risk from communicable diseases (i.e. children who have weakened immune systems).
 3. Represent the school at meetings called by Health or Medical staff regarding school site and setting.

The principal or nurse shall notify the Director of Pupil Services & Special Education as needed.
The Director of Pupil Services & Special Education will notify the Superintendent as needed.

D. The principal will ensure that all records relating to the individual student will be treated as "behavioral records" as per policy #5125, with the exception that reporting communicable diseases to the proper authorities will be undertaken as per the statutes.

IV. Education

A. Information about this policy should be provided on a regular basis to parents.

B. Information about the transmission of communicable diseases shall be included as a regular part of the health curriculum.

V. Guidelines for Preventing the Spread of Communicable Diseases Thru Bodily Fluids

The nature of some communicable diseases and legal protection afforded some individuals may allow for the unknowing spread of some communicable diseases. Proper handling of all bodily fluids at all times will help prevent the accidental spread of communicable disease to staff and students. Exhibit B, "Guidelines in Handling Bodily Fluids in Schools" and "Guidelines of Handwashing in School, will be followed by all staff in the performance of their duties.

The Director of Pupil Services & Special Education, with the assistance of the school nurse and appropriate supervisory staff, will oversee the regular training of staff in the procedures involved in handling body fluids.