

Lower Merion School District

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Policy No.: 205  
Section: STUDENTS  
Title: IMMUNIZATION AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES  
Date Last Revised: 3/8/19; 5/9/06

**R205 IMMUNIZATION AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Students are required to have any single dose vaccine of a required immunization upon entry to school, or otherwise, risk exclusion from school. In the case of a multidose vaccine, students are required to have at least one dose of the vaccine upon entry to school, or otherwise risk exclusion from school.

**If a student does not have all the doses of a multi-dose vaccine as enumerated by Pennsylvania Department of Health, needs additional doses, and the next dose is medically appropriate, the child must either receive the final dose within the first five (5) days of school or receive the next scheduled dose within the first five (5) days of school and also provide a medical plan setting out the schedule for the remaining doses. Students who do not meet these requirements risk exclusion from school.**

If a student does not have all the doses of a multi-dose vaccine as enumerated by Pennsylvania Department of Health, needs additional doses, and the next dose is not medically appropriate, the child must also provide a medical plan within the first five (5) days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion from school.

All medical plans are required to be signed by a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. School nurses are required to review medical plans every 30 days to ensure that the child is in compliance. If a student's medical plan is not followed, the student risks exclusion from school.

**Specific Procedures Regarding Blood Borne Pathogens**

Blood borne pathogens, such as hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), can be harmful, and in some instances, potentially fatal to persons who are exposed. Blood borne pathogens can be spread through contact with blood and other body fluids but are not spread by casual contact. Accordingly, the purpose of these procedures shall be to safeguard the health and well-being of all members of the school community while protecting the rights of the individual.

All District employees shall strive to maintain a respectful school climate and to prohibit physical or verbal harassment of any individual or group, including students infected by blood borne pathogens. Building administrators shall notify students, parents/guardians, and employees about current Board Policy concerning blood borne infection and shall provide reasonable opportunities to discuss the Policy and related concerns.

**Lower Merion School District**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**

Policy No.: 205  
Section: STUDENTS  
Title: IMMUNIZATION AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES  
Date Last Revised: 3/8/19; 5/9/06

***Definitions***

“Blood borne pathogen” means an infectious microorganism in blood that can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

“Body fluid” means all human body fluids and secretions, including but not limited to, blood, feces, urine, semen, vomitus, saliva and respiratory secretions.

“Exposure” or “exposure incident” means contact with an eye, mouth, mucus membrane, or non-intact skin.

“Infected individual” means a person who has been diagnosed with a disease caused by a blood borne pathogen regardless of symptomology.

“Source individual” or “source patient” means any individual whose blood or bodily fluids may be a source of exposure to students or employees.

“Universal Precautions” is an approach to infection control. According to the concept of Universal Precautions, all human blood and certain human body fluids are treated as if known to be infectious for blood borne pathogens.

***Attendance***

Students infected with blood borne pathogens have the same right to attend school and receive services as other students and shall be subject to the same Board Policies and Administrative Regulations. Status as a student with a blood borne pathogen infection shall not factor into decisions concerning educational programs, privileges, or participation in any school-sponsored activity.

When a parent/guardian of a student infected by a blood borne pathogen voluntarily discloses information regarding the student’s condition or if an employee discovers information about a student that indicates an infection with a blood borne pathogen, the District employee who receives the information shall contact the Principal or School Nurse and shall not disclose the information to others.

The Principal or School Nurse shall obtain a written consent of the parent/guardian to disclose the information to members of the Screening Team.

**Lower Merion School District**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**

Policy No.: 205  
Section: STUDENTS  
Title: IMMUNIZATION AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES  
Date Last Revised: 3/8/19; 5/9/06

A Screening Team comprised of the Superintendent or designee, building principal, school nurse, District physician, and student's parents/guardians and attending physician, shall evaluate the educational placement of the infected student. Placement decisions shall be based on the student's need for accommodations or services.

An infected student's placement shall be reassessed if there is a change in the student's need for accommodations or services.

***Confidentiality***

The Superintendent or designee shall be the central contact for handling and releasing all information concerning students infected with blood borne pathogens. All District employees have a duty to preserve the confidentiality of all information concerning an infected student and shall not disclose any information without the prior written consent of the student's parents/guardians, consistent with the requirements of the Pennsylvania Confidentiality of HIV-Related Information Act and other applicable law.

All health records, notes and other documents referring to a student's status as infected with a blood borne pathogen shall be secured and kept confidential.

***Infection Control***

All employees shall be required to consistently follow infection control/universal precautions in all school settings, including playgrounds and school vehicles. Employees shall notify the Superintendent or designee, building principal, and school nurse of all incidents of exposure to bodily fluids and when a student's health condition or behavior presents a reasonable risk of transmitting an infection.

The District shall maintain reasonably accessible equipment and supplies necessary for infection control.

***Staff Development***

All employees shall be required to undergo training and consistently follow infection control/universal precautions in all settings and at all times. This training shall also include instruction regarding blood borne pathogens.

Lower Merion School District

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Policy No.: 205  
Section: STUDENTS  
Title: IMMUNIZATION AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES  
Date Last Revised: 3/8/19; 5/9/06

Designated District employees may receive additional, specialized training appropriate to their positions and responsibilities.

***Prevention Education***

Instruction regarding prevention of blood borne pathogens and other life-threatening and communicable diseases shall be given for elementary, middle, and high school students.

Educational materials and instruction may be determined by the District, but shall be appropriate to the age group being taught. The program of instruction must include information about the nature of the diseases, treatments and cures, methods of transmission, and how infection can be prevented. The District may omit instruction in the elementary grades on the transmission of disease through sexual activity. Programs discussing transmission through sexual activity must stress that abstinence from sexual activity is the only completely reliable means of preventing sexual transmission. Programs must stress that avoidance of illegal drug use is the only completely reliable means of preventing transmission of disease through shared drug paraphernalia.

Parents and guardians shall be provided opportunities to preview all blood borne pathogen prevention curricula and materials. A student shall be excused from blood borne pathogen prevention education when the instruction conflicts with the religious beliefs or principles of the student or parent/guardians, upon written request of the parents/guardians. Curricular materials, if practical, shall be made available for home instructional use by a parent/guardian if the student has been excused from the District's blood borne pathogen instruction.

***Media Inquiries***

Any inquiries from the public or media regarding HIV cases shall be handled by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.