

Contagious or Infectious Diseases

The District is required to provide educational services to all school age children who reside within its boundaries. Attendance at school may be denied to any child diagnosed as having a contagious or infectious disease that could make the child's attendance harmful to the welfare of other students. In the instance of diseases causing suppressed immunity, attendance may be denied to a child with suppressed immunity in order to protect the welfare of the child with suppressed immunity when others in the school have an infectious disease which, although not normally life threatening, could be life threatening to the child with suppressed immunity.

Similar procedures shall be used with children who exhibit head lice (pediculosis). Lakeland School District hereby adopts a "nit free" head lice policy. Students will be excluded from school if nits (egg cases) are present on a child and he/she will not be readmitted to school until the student is free of nits as determined by a physician, school or public health nurse, or a school administrator.

The Board recognizes that communicable diseases that may afflict students range from common childhood diseases, acute and short-term in nature, to chronic, life-threatening diseases such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. The determination of whether an infected student/employee shall be permitted to attend classes and participate in school activities with other students shall be recommended by an evaluation team on a case-by-case basis to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall consider the evaluation team's recommendation and make a final non-precedential determination. The evaluation team shall be composed of public health personnel, the student's physician, the student's parents or guardian, school district legal counsel, and appropriate school personnel as determined by the Board of Trustees. In making this recommendation, the team shall consider in each case: (1) condition of the individual; (2) the expected type of interaction with others in the school setting; and (3) the risks and benefits to both the infected individual and others in the school setting.

Management of common communicable diseases will be in accordance with Idaho Department of Health and Welfare guidelines and communicable diseases control rules. A student who exhibits symptoms of a communicable disease that is readily transmitted in the school setting may be temporarily excluded from school attendance.

Students who complain of illness at school may be referred to the school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board and may be sent home as soon as the parent or person designated on the student's emergency medical authorization form has been notified.

The District reserves the right to require a statement from the student's primary care provider authorizing the student's return to school. In all proceedings related to this policy, the District shall respect the student's right to privacy.

When information is received by a staff member or volunteer that a student is afflicted with a serious communicable disease, the staff member or volunteer shall promptly notify the school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board to determine appropriate measures to protect student and staff health and safety. The school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board, after consultation with and on the advice of public health officials, shall determine which additional staff members, if any, have need to know of the affected student's condition.

Only those persons with direct responsibility for the care of the student or for determining appropriate educational accommodation will be informed of the specific nature of the condition, if it is determined there is a need for such individuals to know this information.

Parents of other children attending the school may be notified that their child has been exposed to a communicable disease without identifying the particular student who has the disease.

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-512      Governance of Schools

Policy History:

Adopted on: August 13, 2007

Revised on:

Prior district policy Article VI, Section G.