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626 - CHRONIC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

1. The Board of Education for School District #22 has a commitment to promote the health and well-being of children, adolescents, and adults attending school in the Detroit Lakes Public Schools. Through appropriate administrative planning, review of public health recommendations and implementation of good hygienic practices, the Board is striving to protect the health and welfare of all concerned.

2. This policy refers to procedures to be followed for all chronic communicable diseases such as HIV-AIDS Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Cytomegalovirus (CMV), Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV), and HSV related diseases such as Chickenpox, Shingles, and Infectious Mononucleosis, as well as Hepatitis and Tuberculosis. The information is based on data currently available and by recommendations from the United States Public Health Center for Disease Control, the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Health.

3. The district protects the individual's rights to privacy and strict confidentiality shall be maintained as specified by state and federal laws.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. STUDENTS

A. It is the policy of the Board of Education that students with chronic communicable diseases not be excluded from attending school in their regular classrooms so long as their attendance does not create a substantial risk of the transmission of illness to children, or employees of the school district.

B. A procedure for minimizing interruptions to learning resulting from chronic communicable diseases will be established by the school district in consultation with community health and private health care providers. Procedures for the inclusion or exclusion of students with chronic communicable diseases from school will consider the educational implications for the student and others whom he or she comes into contact, recommendations from the county public health agency, the Minnesota Department of Education, and the United States Public Health Services Centers for Disease Control.

C. Mandatory screening as a condition for school entry is presently not warranted based on available data.

2. EMPLOYEES

A. It is the policy of the Board of Education that employees with chronic communicable diseases not be excluded from attending to their customary employment so long as they are physically able to perform the tasks assigned to them and so long as their employment does not create a substantial risk of the transmission of illness to children or employees of the school district.

3. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONDITIONS

A. The Board of Education recognizes that some children, because of age or handicapping conditions, and some employees, because of special conditions, may pose greater risks for the transmission of chronic communicable diseases than other persons infected with the same illness. Examples include children who display biting behavior and students and employees who are unable to control their bodily fluids or have uncovered oozing wounds. These conditions need to be taken into account and considered in assessing the risk of transmission of the disease and the resulting effect upon the educational program of the student or employment of the employee.

4. PROCEDURES

A. The following procedure is based upon proposed guidelines of the Minnesota Department of Education and recommendations of the Center for Disease Control of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

1) In all cases in which the superintendent or his designee becomes aware that a student or employee of the school district has contracted one of the diseases previously referred to in this policy, the superintendent will take the following steps:

a. The parent(s) or guardian of the child, or in the case of a student of legal age or an employee, the adult student and the employee or his family, will be contacted in order to discuss the situation and determine whatever facts are available.

b. Upon receiving written consent from the parent(s) or guardian of a student or in the case of an adult student or the employee, the adult student, the employee, or the family involved, the superintendent will confer with the treating physician, if any, in order to determine any significant medical facts concerning the diagnosis of the disease or factors affecting the possible transmission of the disease.

c. The superintendent or his designee shall advise local, county, and state public health authorities of the situation.

d. The superintendent or his designee shall notify the school nurse, nurse's aide, or other health care professionals retained by the school district of the situation if such notification has not previously been made.

e. Where the age of a student, or other conditions, such as biting behavior or, in the case of either an employee or a student, the lack of control of bodily fluids, or the existence of uncovered oozing wounds or other medically identifiable factors increases the risk of transmission, the Minnesota Commissioner of Health is to be contacted and requested to convene an Advisory Committee to review the case and to provide recommendations regarding educational placement for a student or continued attendance at work for an employee. Such Advisory Committee is to include, wherever possible, the following members:

The State
Epidemiologist

Minnesota
Department of
Education
Representative

Pediatrician or
physician with
expertise in infectious
diseases

Physician with
expertise in care of
patients with the
above- listed diseases

Student or employee's
personal physician

Superintendent of
Schools or designee

Primary teacher in the
case of a student

School Nurse, Health
Aide, School District
Medical Consultant

5. HYGIENE PRACTICES IN SCHOOLS

A. Good hygiene practices as recommended by local, county, and state health authorities are to be followed at all times when handling blood or other bodily fluids of any child or employee.

B. Teachers and other employees who may be expected to have contact with a student or employee under circumstances giving rise to a risk of transmission of a serious illness will be informed about the condition of the child or fellow employee.

C. They shall be instructed regarding the possible modes of transmission of the disease and be instructed in:

D. They shall be instructed regarding the possible modes of transmission of the disease and be instructed in:

- 1) Good handwashing techniques;
- 2) Instructions in the care of material soiled by bloody fluids for staff who feed and diaper young or neurologically impaired children; potentially soiled surfaces will be immediately cleansed with disinfectants, disposable towels and diapers will be used, and mops will be rinsed in disinfectant.)
- 3) Use of protective gloves if open lesions are present on the caretakers hands to avoid exposure of open skin lesions to blood or body fluids.

6. DATA PRIVACY CONCERNS

Public concern regarding communicable diseases is neither an excuse nor defense for the violation of data privacy rights of students or employees who have or are rumored to have such illnesses.

A. Health data regarding students is private data, Minnesota Statutes #13.32, Subd. 2, and is not to be disseminated to the public or to staff with the strict observance of data privacy rights. Knowledge that a student has a chronic communicable disease will be limited to those persons determined by the superintendent to have a direct need to know.

B. Health data regarding employees is private date, Minnesota Statutes, #13.43, Subd. 2, and may not be released to the public nor to fellow employees without, strict observance of data privacy rights of public employees, Minnesota Statutes #13.43. Knowledge that an employee has a chronic communicable disease will be limited to those persons determined by the superintendent to have a direct need to know.

C. The school district recognizes that the improper and unauthorized release of health information regarding a student or employee suffering from an infectious disease has the potential of doing irremediable harm.

7. THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE

A. Director of the NTC shall act as the Superintendent's Designee for all cases involving NTC students or staff.

B. The Director of Elementary Education and/or the School Nurse shall act as the Superintendent's Designee on all cases relative to K-12 students and staff.

8. STAFF AND STUDENT EDUCATION

The School Board recognizes that the education of its residents, staff, and students regarding the risks involved in the spread of infectious diseases in the school setting will help to minimize the risk of transmission to other students and employees while protecting the rights of infected students and employees.

A. All school district employees will receive instruction regarding this policy, appropriate hygienic practices for use in all school settings, precautions to be employed where contagious diseases may be encountered and community resources for referral and information.

B. Students in grades 7-12 will receive appropriate instruction in sexual health and responsibility including information and physiology; rights and responsibilities of individuals to make personal choices in behavior and relationships; respect for the choices of individuals; and specific information about sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, including prevention and access to community resources.

C. Students in early childhood, primary and intermediate grades will receive instruction in sexual health and responsibility include age-appropriate information about anatomy and physiology and information about communicable diseases.

D. Adult learners will have an opportunity to receive instruction in sexual health and responsibility. The schools shall plan and implement programs in cooperation with community resources.

E. Chemical Health and Responsibility - Learners of all ages shall receive instruction about the risks of communicable diseases incorporated into chemical health and responsibility curriculum.

F. Equity Education - Learners of all ages will review concepts of the rights of individuals, including data privacy rights, tolerance of differences in lifestyle, and how fear and lack of information can lead to prejudice or other forms of minimizing the rights of individuals.