

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The Board complies with all applicable laws and regulations concerning communicable diseases in the interest of promoting the health and safety of students, employees and visitors to the schools.

Teachers are expected to be alert to students showing signs of illness, and refer students who have such symptoms to the school nurse. If a teacher or school nurse has reason to believe that a student has a communicable disease of the skin, mouth or eyes, the building principal and Superintendent shall be informed. In such cases, under Maine law and depending on the particular circumstances, the Superintendent or designee may:

- a. Notify the student's parents/guardians to provide necessary care and/or medical treatment to alleviate the condition (parents/guardians are required by law to promptly take such measures as are reasonably necessary to ensure that the student is not a public health threat);
- b. Exclude the student from school as soon as appropriate transportation home is available and until they no longer pose a public health threat; and/or
- c. Consult with the school nurse.

The Superintendent is required to exclude from school any student who has contracted or has been exposed to a communicable disease, as directed by a health care provider after consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

In addition, in any case when the Superintendent has been notified that a public health official has reason to believe that the continued presence in school of a student who has not been immunized against one or more diseases presents a clear danger to the health of others, the student shall be excluded from school. Unimmunized students must be excluded from school until the period of danger has passed (in accordance with regulations established by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention). Arrangements shall be made for students who are excluded from school to receive and complete school assignments if possible, and to make up missed examinations and other work within a reasonable time upon their return to school.

In the event of an actual or threatened outbreak of a communicable disease or other public health threat, DHHS may order that any person attending school be excluded until DHHS determines that a public health threat no longer exists. The student shall not be permitted to return to school until DHHS, in consultation with the health care provider responsible for the student's care, determines that return is permissible and will not pose a threat to public health, and notifies the Superintendent.

Any student returning to school after being excluded under this policy is required to provide appropriate medical documentation that they no longer pose a health risk in the school.

Legal Reference: 5 MRSA § 19201 et seq.  
20-A MRSA §§ 1001.11-A, 6301, 6356  
22 MRSA, Chapter 250  
MDOE Rule Chapter 126  
DHHS Rule Chapter 258

Adopted: February 26, 1987

Revised: October 3, 2002  
June 21, 2012  
March 4, 2021