



## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, the Superintendent shall implement procedures assuring that all school buildings are in compliance with the Washington State Department of Health rules and regulations regarding the presence of persons who have or have been exposed to infectious diseases deemed dangerous to the public health. Such procedures shall also prescribe the manner in which safeguards are taken to remove the danger to others.

The district shall require that the parents or guardian complete a Health Information and Emergency Medical Treatment form at the beginning of each school year. The nurse or school physician may use such reports to advise the parent of the need for further medical attention and to plan for potential health problems in school.

The Board authorizes the school principal and/or Superintendent to exclude a student who has been diagnosed by a physician, or is suspected of having an infectious disease, in accordance with the regulations within the most current OSPI Infectious Disease Control Guide for School Staff. The principal and/or school nurse shall report the presence of suspected cases of communicable disease to the appropriate local health authority as required by the Washington State Department of Health. Such information concerning a student's present and past health condition shall be treated as confidential. The principal shall cooperate with the local health officials in the investigation of the source of the disease.

The fact that a student has been tested for a sexually transmitted disease, the test result, any information relating to the diagnosis or treatment of a sexually transmitted disease, and any information regarding drug or alcohol treatment for a student must be kept strictly confidential. If the district has a release, the information may be disclosed pursuant to the restrictions in the release.

A school principal and/or Superintendent have the authority to send an ill child home without the concurrence of the local health officer; but, if the disease is reportable, the local health officer must be notified. The local health officer is the primary resource in the identification and control of infectious disease in community and school. The local health officer, in consultation with the Superintendent can take whatever action deemed necessary to control or eliminate the spread of disease, including closing a school. Disclosure of health/educational records (or information), without consent, to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency is allowed, if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect health and safety of the student or other individuals.

<b>Legal Reference:</b>	RCW 70.24.105	Exchange of Medical Information
	RCW 28A.210.010	Contagious Diseases, Limiting Contact--Rules and Regulations
	WAC 246-101-420	Responsibilities of Schools
	Joint Guidance on the Application of Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA) To Student Health Records (November 2008) from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Education	

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