

ROSEVILLE AREA SCHOOLS
Independent School District No. 623

Policy 516 – Communicable Diseases

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to promote and protect the health and safety of the district's students and employees by adopting measures for communicable disease prevention, education and response. This policy is intended to provide guidance for school district employees, reassurance to families and community, and support for persons with serious communicable diseases significant to public health and educational rights.

2.0 General Statement of Policy

- 2.1 Utilizing guidelines and recommendations from agencies responsible for establishing policies related to communicable disease, including the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), students and staff may be excluded from the school setting and school-related activities.
- 2.2 If the health status of a student deteriorates enough to interfere with their ability to attend school, the school district may request documentation from a licensed health care provider to establish the safety and appropriateness of attending school. Collaboration with MDH may be necessary to determine isolation requirements while at school. Collaboration with the Licensed School Nurse and school administrator may be necessary to determine accommodations needed.
- 2.3 If the health status of an employee deteriorates enough to interfere with their ability to attend work, the school district, as governed by applicable law, may require documentation from a licensed health care provider in order to establish whether the employee is fit for duty.
- 2.4 Health data relating to students is private data and as such will not be released without permission of the student's parent or guardian if the student is under 18 years of age, or, if over 18 years of age, by the student, or as otherwise allowed by law.
- 2.5 Health data relating to employees is private data and as such will not be released except as allowed by law.

3.0 Definitions

- 3.1 *Communicable Disease*: disease due to an infectious agent that may be transmitted directly or indirectly from one individual to another.

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- 3.2 *Standard Precautions*: infection control methods that treat all human blood and other potentially infectious materials as if known to be infectious with a blood borne pathogen.
- 3.3 *Blood Borne Pathogens*: pathogenic microorganisms that are present in body fluids and can cause disease in humans.
- 3.4 *Airborne Pathogens*: pathogenic microorganisms that are transmitted through air and can cause disease in humans.
- 3.5 *Direct Contact with Pathogens*: pathogenic microorganisms that are transmitted by direct contact with the pathogen and can cause disease in humans.

4.0 Precautions

The school district shall:

- 4.1 Develop routine procedures for infection control that are consistent with the school district's procedures regarding infectious pathogens and that utilize guidelines from the MDH and CDC;
- 4.2 Apply standard precautions for all body fluids; and,
- 4.3 Develop and implement measures for educating employees about these procedures.

5.0 Prevention

- 5.1 The school district shall implement a program to prevent and reduce the risk of sexually transmitted and communicable diseases that is in accordance with state law and consistent with the school district's health and wellness curriculum.
- 5.2 The school district will provide personal protective equipment and other necessary equipment recommended by the CDC and training for prevention of exposure in the event of novel diseases.

Approved: 6/21/89
Revised: 6/7/05
Revised: 5/9/17