

## **POST FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 273**

Procedure Title: Welfare

Section Title: Health Series/Communicable Disease Management

Sub-Section No. 505.5a

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The following guidelines are meant to provide simple and effective precautions against transmission of disease for all persons. No distinction shall be made between students/staff with a known disease from students/staff without symptoms or with an undiagnosed disease. The Post Falls School District follows recommended guides as set forth by the Center for Disease Control:

- Educational Training
- Direct Contact
- Universal Precautions

School District Employees

### Confidentiality

The school district will not require disclosure of an employee's health status. Any information known to the school district or its employees regarding an individual's disease status will be confidential in compliance with HIPPA unless (1) the employee gives his or her prior approval or (2) such disclosure is required by law.

### Discrimination

The school district will not discriminate against anyone who has an infectious disease.

Students

### Educational Decisions

Decisions regarding programs of education for students with an infectious disease should be based on the behavior, neurologic development and physical condition of the student, and the anticipated interaction between the student and others in the school setting. Such decisions may be made by a team comprised of the school administrator, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), the student's physician, appropriate school staff members and other personnel, if any, whose involvement is deemed necessary. In each case, the decision-making process should include a weighing of benefits and risks to both the infected student and to others interacting with that student.

### Attendance

Children diagnosed with an infectious disease will be allowed to attend school as long as the benefits to the child outweigh the risks to the child or to others. See Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act for related information and requirements.

### Confidentiality

Any information known to the school district or its employees regarding a student's infectious disease status will be confidential unless (1) the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) give prior approval to a disclosure, or (2) such disclosure is required by law.

### Evaluation of Hygienic Practices

The team described in (1) above will evaluate the student and staff at periodic intervals to determine whether the student's educational environment should be adjusted to better suit the needs and safety of all. This review will be based upon staff/parent or medical team referral.

Adopted: 5/13/96

Amended: 7/14/08

Reviewed: 2017, 2021

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### **Universal Precautions and Control**

#### Direct Contact

School district employees and volunteers must take all reasonable precautions to avoid direct contact with any bodily fluids. All bodily fluids should be treated as potentially infective.

#### Training

Training about techniques for preventing the spread of infectious disease must be comprehensive and will be provided for staff members by the school district. Such training will include a demonstration of safe procedures. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance for the prevention and transmission of infectious disease in school settings.

#### Supplies

The school will provide a supply of gloves and appropriate disinfecting solution.

#### Handling Ill or Injured Persons

Whenever school district employees or volunteers are required to handle an ill or injured person, these procedures must be followed to minimize direct contact with blood or bodily fluids:

Appropriate barrier precautions will be used when contact with blood or other bodily fluids is anticipated. Gloves will be worn whenever blood and bodily fluids, mucus membranes or non-intact skin must be touched. Gloves will also be worn for handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or bodily fluids. Gloves must be changed whenever a new person is contacted.

Hand and other skin surfaces will be washed with soap and water immediately and thoroughly whenever contaminated with blood or other bodily fluids, as well as after removal of gloves.

Special precaution must be taken to prevent injuries caused by needles or other sharp instruments or devices while using, cleaning or disposing of these sharp objects.

Soiled clothing, uniforms and linen will be handled as little as possible to prevent microbial contamination of air and other persons. Contaminated clothing and cloth materials will be plastic bagged and sent home to be washed immediately.

Surfaces contaminated with blood will be decontaminated with a recommended disinfectant. Care should be taken to avoid contaminating the solution or the container of the solution. Sufficient contact time according to product directions should be allowed to ensure surfaces are adequately disinfected.

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