

## Students

### Communicable/Infectious Diseases

The New London Board of Education recognizes that all children have a constitutional right to a free, suitable program of educational experiences. The Board also recognizes that it has a responsibility to assure that the New London Public Schools provide a safe environment for all of its students and employees.

To that end, the Board adopts the following policy for educating students known to have a chronic infectious disease, such as AIDS/HIV infection, Cytomegalovirus (CMV), Hepatitis B or C, or Herpes Simplex, and for ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all students.

1. As a general rule and with the approval of the child's physician, a child with a chronic infectious disease will be allowed to attend school in a regular classroom setting and will be considered eligible for all rights, privileges, and services provided by law and existing policy of the New London Board of Education.
2. With the written permission of a parent or guardian, the school nurse will function as the:
  - a. Liaison with the child's physician,
  - b. Child's advocate in the school by assisting in problem resolution, answering questions, and by performing similar functions, and
  - c. Coordinator of services provided by other staff.
3. Each school will respect the right to privacy of the child and maintain strict confidentiality of any records containing health information. Therefore, knowledge that a child has a chronic infectious disease shall be confined to those persons authorized by the parent or guardian and with a direct need to know. Those persons will be provided with appropriate information concerning the child's needs and such precautions as may be necessary.
4. Based upon individual circumstances, special programming may be warranted. Special education may be provided if a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) determines it necessary.
5. Under certain circumstances a child with a chronic infectious disease might pose a risk of transmission to others. If any such circumstances exist, the school Medical Advisor, in consultation with the school nurse and the child's physician, must determine whether a risk of transmission exists in the school. If the school Medical Advisor determines that a risk exists, the student shall be removed from the classroom.



## Students

### Communicable/Infectious Diseases (continued)

6. A child with a chronic infectious disease may be temporarily removed from the classroom for the reasons stated in #5 until an appropriate school program adjustment can be made, an appropriate alternative educational program can be established, or the Medical Advisor determines that the risk has abated and the child can return to the classroom.
  - a. Removal from the classroom will not be construed to be the only response to reduce risk of transmission. School personnel should be flexible in developing alternatives and should attempt to use the least restrictive means to accommodate the child's needs.
  - b. In any case of temporary removal of the student from the school setting, regulations of the State of Connecticut and school practice regarding home-bound instruction shall apply.
7. Each removal of a child with chronic infectious disease from normal school attendance will be reviewed by the school medical advisor in consultation with the parent or guardian and the student's physician and supervising school nurse at least once every month to determine whether the condition precipitating the removal has changed.
8. A child with a chronic infectious disease may need to be removed from the classroom for his or her own protection when other communicable diseases, such as measles or chicken pox, are occurring in the school population. This decision will be made by the child's physician and the parent or guardian in consultation with the school nurse and/or the school Medical Advisor.
9. In accordance with Board policy and as mandated by Federal law and regulations of the Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA), routine and standard procedures will be used to clean up after a child has an accident or injury at school. The following procedures shall be followed:
  - a. Blood or other body fluids emanating from any child, including ones known to have a chronic infectious disease, should be treated cautiously.
  - b. Gloves should be worn when cleaning up blood spills. These spills should be disinfected with either bleach or another disinfectant, and persons coming into contact with them should wash their hands afterwards.
  - c. Blood-soaked items would be placed in labeled and leakproof bags for washing or further disposition.

## Students

### Communicable/Infectious Diseases (continued)

- d. Similar procedures have been adopted for dealing with vomitus and fecal or urinary incontinence in any child.
- e. Hand washing after contact with a school child is not routinely recommended unless physical contact has been made with the child's blood or body fluids, including saliva.
- f. Exposure incidents are reported, documented and treated according to OSHA regulations.

A child with an infectious disease may be considered handicapped, if the child presents such physical impairment that limits one or more major life activities. Therefore, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act may apply. The parent or guardian or the school administration may make a referral for a determination whether the student is handicapped and entitled to protection under Section 504. The Planning and Placement Team will conduct an Individual Placement Program (IPP) to determine whether the student is handicapped or is "otherwise qualified" within the meaning of Section 504. The student will be educated in the least restrictive environment.

(cf. 5111 - Admission)

(cf. 5141.3 - Health Assessments and Immunizations)

(cf. 6155 - Individualized Education Program)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
"Education for Children with Disabilities", 20 U.S.C. 1400, et seq. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 706(7)(b)  
"Americans with Disabilities Act"  
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232g, 45 C.F.R. 99.10-76(d)(15) Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services.  
10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student.  
10-207 Duties of medical advisors.  
10-209 Records not to be public.  
10-210 Notice of disease to be given parent or guardian.  
19a-221 Quarantine of certain persons.  
19a-581-585 AIDS testing and medical information.

Policy adopted: August 11, 2005

NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New London, Connecticut

**NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
COMMON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

<b>DISEASE</b>	<b>EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL POLICY</b>
<b>Chicken pox</b>	6 days or until lesions are crusted
<b>Conjunctivitis</b>	Has received appropriate therapy for 24 hours and has permission from the physician to return to school
<b>Elevated Temperature (100 degrees or over)</b>	A full 24 hours after the child is afebrile (99.9 degrees or lower)
<b>German Measles (Rubella)</b>	7 days after onset of rash
<b>Impetigo</b>	Has received appropriate medically prescribed therapy for 24 hrs. and has permission from the physician to return to school
<b>Hepatitis</b>	Has physician's permission to return to school
<b>Infectious Mononucleosis</b>	No set time – only while illness lasts, has permission from physician to return to school
<b>Measles</b>	5 days after appearance of rash
<b>Meningitis</b>	No set time – only while illness lasts, has permission from physician to return to school
<b>Mumps</b>	Until swelling has subsided or not less than 9 days after onset of parotid swelling
<b>Pediculosis</b>	Until hair is clear – no appearance of live nits and has used prescribed shampoo or over-the-counter treatment, especially for the treatment of head lice
<b>Ringworm of Scalp</b>	None, if under proper treatment
<b>Scabies</b>	Has received appropriate medically prescribed treatment for 24 hrs. and has permission from physician to return to school
<b>Streptococcal Infection</b>	Has received appropriate therapy for 24 hours and has permission from physician to return to school
<b>Fifth Disease</b>	Excluding children from school is not recommended as a public health measure

Children excluded from school with any of the above health problems must be evaluated by the school nurse before returning to the classroom.