

Management of Students and Employees with Communicable Diseases and Conditions

It is the intent of Bismarck Public Schools (BPS) to work to control exposure and the spread of communicable diseases and conditions in the school setting. Parents are the front line in this work through early recognition and treatment when a child is ill and could possibly transmit an illness to others.

BPS will provide resources and educate parents regularly about communicable diseases through newsletters and the school websites.

BPS will use the ND Disease Fact Sheets <https://www.ndhealth.gov/Disease/faq> and the ND Child Care/School Infection Control Manual <http://library.nd.gov/statedocs/Health2/daycaremanual20121206.pdf> as guidelines (not mandates) for managing communicable diseases and conditions. BPS may use additional applicable resources, e.g. Centers for Disease Control. BPS may adopt disease control practices specific to the needs of the District and as new information becomes available. BPS will comply with the laws and requirements involving Reportable Conditions as stated in Article 33-06 and NDCC 23-07-01.

School administrators in conjunction with the school nurse (where available) and local and state public health authorities will make the final decision about excluding students or employees from school when needed to protect the health of others. Schools will have procedures in place to clean areas where contagion is likely to exist, if the school is notified of a diagnosed or suspected case of a communicable disease or condition.

All information related to students and staff having, or suspected of having, a communicable disease or condition will be considered confidential and subject to BPS Policy DEBA.

The decision to share information with parents of exposed students will be made by the school administrator, school nurse (where available), and local or state health authorities. Sharing information with parents of exposed students will be done when it is deemed necessary to control exposure or spread, such as if there is an increasing or unusual number of cases occurring in a classroom or building. Parents should not rely solely on school notifications to alert them regarding the occurrence of communicable conditions, but should maintain regular surveillance in order to detect and treat conditions as early as possible.