Communicable Diseases Policy

Holton-Arms School follows the recommendations on Communicable Diseases from the Maryland Department of Health and Human Services and/or Montgomery County Health and Human Services for school exclusion. If your child is diagnosed with ANY contagious condition, families should notify the school as soon as they have knowledge of their child's diagnosis.

The School may exclude any student from school who has a communicable illness or has been exposed to an infected person if it is determined that the exclusion is for the welfare of the student and/or the school community at large. In reaching the decision to exclude a student from School, the School may consult with appropriate medical professionals and/or the Maryland Department of Health.

In order to return to School, students who have been excluded from School for health reasons must submit a physician's certification that the student may return to School without risk to self or to others. Additionally, the Department of Health (DOH) requires that specific illnesses be reported to them. In such cases, DOH will be consulted prior to the student's re-entry.

When appropriate, the School will disseminate information to students and families regarding campus health and safety issues through regular internal communication channels. For example, the School may provide families with information about the nature and spread of communicable illnesses, including symptoms and signs to watch for, as well as required steps to be taken in the event of an epidemic or outbreak. Holton may also screen students or require students to be screened by appropriate medical professionals to determine whether they pose a risk to the community. The School's decisions shall be based on current and well-informed medical judgments concerning the illness, the risks of transmitting the illness to others, the symptoms and special circumstances of each individual who has a communicable illness, and an analysis of the identified risks and available alternatives for responding to an individual with a communicable illness.

For more information please call the school nurse at 301-365-6002 or email lori.herringa@holton-arms.edu.