

Communicable Diseases

Section A - Introduction

The Board of Education of District #225 recognizes the right of each student to an education. The Board also recognizes its obligations in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of all students and employees of the district. Therefore, the right of each student to receive an education by attending school shall be protected as long as that attendance does not jeopardize the health, safety, or welfare of the particular student, or of other students, or of employees.

Section B - Definition

The term "communicable disease," as used herein, shall mean any communicable disease as defined in any current or applicable future rule or regulation of the Illinois Department of Public Health defining or listing communicable diseases.

Section C - Reporting Communicable Diseases

Any employee of the district, who has information regarding any student suspected of having a communicable disease, shall report such information to the school nurse. If the school nurse suspects that the student has a communicable disease, the nurse shall inform the school principal, who shall inform the superintendent. The superintendent shall notify the Illinois Department of Public Health if any student of the district has a condition for which reporting is required by the Department.

Section D - Exclusion of Student From School Attendance

The Board of Education reserves the right to have any student who is suspected of having a communicable disease, excluded from regular school attendance where the physical condition of the student could interfere with the student's ability to participate in the school setting with reasonable accommodations or could expose the particular student or other students or employees to infection.

The Board authorizes the superintendent to make temporary exclusions under such conditions as described above, for a period not to exceed ten school days. The superintendent shall report any such exclusions to the Board.

Any exclusion for a period beyond ten school days shall require the approval of the Board.

In making a determination to exclude a student from school who is suspected of having a communicable disease, the superintendent and the Board may consider such items of information as:

1. The medical condition of the student;
2. The state of medical knowledge concerning the communicable disease at the time the student is suspected of having the communicable disease, including the nature, duration, and severity of the risk of disease, and the probability of transmission and resultant harm therefrom;
3. The state of the legal environment (statutes and court cases) at the time the student is suspected of having the communicable disease;
4. What reasonable accommodations can be made to reduce the health risk to the student, to other students, and to employees; and
5. Any other relevant information.

In making a determination to exclude a student from school who is suspected of having a communicable disease, the superintendent or the Board may review the situation with the student, the student's parents or legal guardians, the student's physician, public health officials, other medical authorities, the Board's legal counsel, and any other individual who the superintendent or Board may deem appropriate.

In making a determination to exclude a student from school who is suspected of having a communicable disease, the superintendent or the Board shall attempt to balance the interests of the infected student, the interests of other students and employees, and the interests of the school district as a corporate body.

Section E - Alternative Educational Program

During an exclusionary period of two weeks or longer, the Board shall provide the excluded student with an alternative educational program at the Board's expense. (See Board of Education Policy 7160: Homebound or Hospitalbound Instruction.)

Section F - Medical Examinations

Any medical examination required by the Board of Education shall be at the Board's expense. When a student has been excluded from school attendance as provided above, a satisfactory certificate from one or more licensed physicians of the Board's choice may be required prior to readmission.

Section G- Confidentiality

Only persons with a direct need to know, as determined by the superintendent, shall be provided appropriate information about the condition of the student. When applicable, the superintendent may notify other students, employees, and the community of information concerning the existence of a student having a communicable disease. Confidentiality shall be maintained.

Section H - Board of Education Reserves Final Authority

Final decisions in any situation developing under this policy are reserved to the Board of Education.

Approved: March 28, 1988
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