No. 5605
SECTION: STUDENTS
TITLE: COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND IMMUNIZATIONS

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OXFORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, the Board requires that established policy and guidelines concerning communicable diseases be followed.

A. Immunization

All students shall be immunized against certain diseases in accordance with Pennsylvania statutes, unless specifically exempt for religious or medical reasons.

No student shall be admitted to school for the first time who has not been immunized against disease enumerated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, in the manner directed by the Secretary of Health.

A student shall be exempt from the requirements for immunizations whose parents/guardians object in writing to such immunizations for religious grounds or whose physician certifies that the child's physical condition contraindicates immunizations.

As per the Pennsylvania Department of Health, students may be admitted to school provisionally if evidence of at least one dose of each required immunization has been given. The next dose in the series shall be completed within thirty (30) days after the date due unless a plan for completion is provided by the health care provider. If this requirement is not met, the school administrator shall undertake suspension procedures, and the student will not be readmitted until immunization is completed.

Implementation of immunization requirements shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent, building principal or designee and shall be subject to the sanctions of law for violation of the State statute for immunization.

The Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Annually review state standards for immunization and direct accordingly the responsible district personnel.
2. Inform parents/guardians prior to a student's entry to school for the first time of the requirements for immunization, exemption available for religious or medical reason, and means by which such exemptions may be claimed.
3. Investigate and recommend to the Board district-sponsored programs of immunization as may be warranted by circumstances and the health

of the school community. Any such program is subject to Board approval and should be conducted in cooperation with local agencies.

B. Health Records

The District shall require that prior to a student's admittance to school for the first time; the parent/guardian shall complete a medical history report form that includes information regarding known communicable diseases. The nurse or school physician may use such reports to advise the parent/guardian of the need for further medical care.

The school nurse shall report the presence of suspected communicable diseases to the appropriate local health authority as required by the Department of Health.

All health records shall be confidential and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the student or at the request of the parent/guardian to a physician.

As part of the health record, an immunization record shall be maintained for each student enrolled, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

The district shall require parents/guardians to annually complete a health history update form that includes information regarding communicable diseases.

C. Attendance

The Board authorizes that students who have been diagnosed by a health care provider or who are suspected of having a disease by the school nurse shall be excluded from school for the period indicated by regulations of the Department of Health for certain specified diseases and infectious conditions. (Appendix A: PA Code 27.71 - Exclusions for children and staff having contact with children, for specified diseases and infectious conditions).

The Board and Administration of the Oxford Area School District is committed to maximizing our students' academic performance and physical wellbeing in a healthy and safe environment. The District recognizes that head lice infestations (pediculosis) do not pose a health hazard, are not a sign of poor hygiene, and are not responsible for the spread of any disease. However, it is acknowledged that misinformation about head lice causes anxiety for families, students and school staff. The health room staff will support parents/guardians and district employees with information, treatment and control of head lice in the family.

Students who exhibit signs and symptoms of lice infestation shall be excluded until verification of treatment is obtained. Upon return to school, the student will be rechecked by the school nurse to assess the infestation status and viability of any existing nits. Monitoring of chronic conditions will be performed as indicated by the school nurse.

Instruction regarding communicable and life threatening diseases shall be provided by the schools in the educational program for all levels. Parents/guardians shall be provided convenient opportunities to preview all instructional materials used in presentation of this subject.