

7300: COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (AP)

Approved: 86 02 18
Amended: 88 08 24

POLICY

The Board of School Trustees has the responsibility to protect, where possible, pupils and employees from the danger of exposure to communicable diseases.

The Board will, pursuant to Section 100 and 107 respectively of the School Act, exercise its authority to restrict the attendance of a pupil, or suspend an employee, where the health of the pupil or employee is deemed to endanger the health of the pupils attending the school.

The Board specifically requests that, wherever possible, employees wear surgical gloves when providing assistance to pupils suffering injury/illness involving blood or body fluids.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 The decision as to whether a pupil or employee will be removed from a school setting, or shall be refused admission to a school, shall be based on the recommendation of the School Medical Health Officer.
- 1.2 Typical communicable diseases will be routinely handled in conformance with Sections 100 and 107 of the School Act. Atypical diseases, requiring extraordinary conditions will be dealt with in the Regulations of this policy.
- 1.3 Principals shall ensure that uncontaminated surgical gloves are available in the school office or medical room.

2.0 SPECIFIC DISEASES

2.1 ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

Reporting Suspected Cases

- i) If a teacher has reason to suspect that a pupil is suffering from AIDS, he shall report the matter to the school principal, who will report the matter to the Superintendent of Schools.

ii) The Superintendent of Schools will request that the School Medical Health Officer, will make or cause to be made, an immediate examination of the health of the student.

iii) Substantiated cases of AIDS will be reported to the Board.

2.2 Education Setting for AIDS Pupils

2.2.1 Decisions regarding the type of educational setting for an AIDS infected pupil should be based on the history of the pupil's social behavior and the expected type of interaction with others in the school setting.

2.2.2 The Superintendent of Schools will convene a meeting of the pupil's parents/guardians, physician, School Medical Health Officer and appropriate public health, School District, and school-based personnel. This group will determine the appropriate educational setting for the pupil based on the following criteria.

i) For most infected pupils, the benefits of an unrestricted setting would outweigh the extremely low risks of transmitting the disease at school.

ii) For very young pupils who lack control of their body secretions or who display behavior such as biting, or those pupils who have uncoverable oozing lesions, a more restrictive environment is advisable. If necessary, when there is no appropriate setting, and only upon the advice of the School Medical Health Officer, educational services will be provided through the District Hospital and Homebound program.

2.2.3 Cases of dispute regarding educational setting will be brought to the Board for resolution.

2.3 Protection of Employees

School district personnel providing personal care to an AIDS infected pupil shall be guided by the advice and recommendations of the School Medical Health Officer who shall arrange periodical inspections of such situations.

2.4 Confidentiality

Personnel involved in the care and education of AIDS infected pupils shall respect the pupil's right to privacy, including the maintenance of confidential records. The number of personnel who are aware of the child's condition shall be kept at a minimum needed to assure proper care of the pupil and to detect situations where the potential for transmission may increase (i.e. bleeding injury).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, refer to the Ministry of Health publication "AIDS INFORMATION FOR THE WORKPLACE."