

Contagious or Infectious Diseases

The District is required to provide educational services to all school age children who reside within its boundaries. Attendance at school may be denied to any child diagnosed as having a contagious or infectious disease that could make the child's attendance harmful to the welfare of other students. In the instance of diseases causing suppressed immunity, attendance may be denied to a child with suppressed immunity in order to protect the welfare of the child with suppressed immunity when others in the school have an infectious disease which, although not normally life threatening, could be life threatening to the child with suppressed immunity.

The Board recognizes that communicable diseases that may afflict students range from common childhood diseases, acute and short-term in nature, to chronic, life-threatening diseases. The District shall rely on the advice of the public health and medical communities in assessing the risk of transmission of various communicable diseases to determine how best to protect the health of both students and staff.

Management of common communicable diseases will be in accordance with Idaho Department of Health and Welfare guidelines and communicable diseases control rules. A student who exhibits symptoms of a communicable disease that is readily transmitted in the school setting may be temporarily excluded from school attendance.

Suspicion of Disease

If a student has reason to believe a school district employee student or another student has a communicable disease, as defined in the section above, he/she shall immediately report this information to his/her teacher, the building principal, or to the Superintendent of Schools. If a school employee receives such a report and believes that this information is accurate, he/she shall report to the school nurse, if one is available, or to the Superintendent of Schools who shall then notify the SDH.

Appointment of Health Review Team (HRT)

The Superintendent of Schools and administrators will review the cases of student having, or suspected of having, a communicable disease. The HRT shall consist of an administrator, a school nurse, if possible, or a nurse or allied health professional from the community, a physician, and other members as the Superintendent of Schools deems necessary. The student shall be allowed to remain in school until the administration verifies whether the student has the disease. The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to arrange safe placement of the affected student during the investigation.

## Confidentiality Requirements

Steps will be taken to protect the confidentiality of any student with a communicable disease. Therefore, the knowledge that any student has a communicable disease will be confined to those persons who have a direct need to know as determined by the Superintendent of Schools. Those persons will be provided with appropriate information and made aware of the requirements of confidentiality.

## Possibility of Exclusion Guidelines

In the case of a student who has a human retrovirus variously labeled Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and when certain health conditions exist in the school environment (e.g. measles or chicken pox) which could threaten the health of the affected student, the physician of the student will be notified by the school nurse, if one is available, or by the Superintendent of Schools. Exclusion from school will be at the discretion of the affected student's physician.

Students who complain of illness at school may be referred to the school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board and may be sent home as soon as the parent or person designated on the student's emergency medical authorization form has been notified.

The District reserves the right to require a statement from the student's primary care provider authorizing the student's return to school. In all proceedings related to this policy, the District shall respect the student's right to privacy.

Parents of other children attending the school may be notified that their child has been exposed to a communicable disease without identifying the particular student who has the disease.

## Student Education

The Board recognizes that responsible health education appropriate for students at various grade levels may help minimize the spread of infectious disease. In this regard, appropriate instructional materials about communicable diseases will be adopted by the Board for inclusion in the District's health curriculum.

## Pediculosis (Head Lice)

### **EXCLUSION FOR HEAD LICE**

Pediculosis, also known as head lice, is a common condition in the school-age child. Pediculosis is highly contagious and easily spread from direct or indirect contact with the infested person and/or infested personal items.

The school principal or designee will screen students for head lice. If nits (egg cases) or lice are present, the student will be excluded from school until the student is nit- and lice-free or until a licensed physician, public health nurse, school nurse, or other person authorized by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare determines that the student is no longer contagious. If the principal or designee later suspects or determines that the student is again contagious, the student will be excluded from school until the student meets the criteria set forth above.

### Case Finding

1. At the beginning of each academic year, all students, Kindergarten through grade five (K-5), may be examined for head lice. Any new student may be examined upon request for entry to school.
2. When a case is found, all the students in the same classroom will be examined. Also, a notification of head lice letter will be sent home to the parent/guardian of each student in the classroom the same day the case of head lice is discovered.
3. If five (5) or more students in one school appear to be infested, an examination of the entire school will be done.
  - a. With five (5) infested students in one school, examinations of the entire school will be done every two (2) weeks.
  - b. During the intervening period, the health care provider will reexamine the infested students.

### Administrative Hearing

1. Each infestation will be recorded, identifying the student's name, age, grade, teacher, bus number, date the infestation was discovered, type of treatment, and date student returned to school after treatment.
2. The parent/guardian of an infested student will be requested orally and in writing to come to school and take the student home. The parent/guardian will be shown some of the nits in order to:
  - a. Demonstrate that the student is infested; and
  - b. Enable the parent/guardian to see what a nit or louse looks like and, thus, gain the information needed to examine other family members for infestation.
4. Proof of treatment (note from physician or shampoo box top) must be given to the principal or designee prior to the student returning to school. The student will be reexamined for active pediculosis before readmission. If the student returns to school the same day as

diagnosis and treatment, the student must wear a different set of clothing. If the student returns without proof of treatment, and if the principal or designee suspects or determines that the student is still contagious, the student may be refused readmission to school and sent home with a copy of a second letter to the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will also be sent a separate letter. If a student has been treated at least twice and is still coming to school with active pediculosis, the parent/guardian will be required to bring the student to school for seven (7) continuous school days to be checked before regular admission to school will be allowed.

5. If the principal or designee determines that the family cannot afford treatment, the principal may:

- a. Request direct follow-up by the local health department; or
- b. Arrange for medication to treat the infested student and infested members of his or her household. Medication may be furnished by the school district or by the principal or designee.

## **PREVENTING TRANSMISSION**

1. When an outbreak of pediculosis occurs at school, classroom activities involving body-to-body or head-to-body contact between students will be temporarily suspended.
2. During an outbreak, group work around classroom tables will be temporarily suspended or every other chair spacing used.
3. During an outbreak, students riding school buses will be required to sit in assigned seats limited to two (2) students per seat.
4. During an outbreak, teachers are required to:
  - a. Assign coat hooks in the classroom.
  - b. Encourage students to keep hats in coat sleeves or pockets.
  - c. Segregate clothes where adequate facilities for hanging coats are not available.
  - d. Suspend play on carpeted areas.
5. During an outbreak, the bedding in the nurse's office must be changed after it is used by a student.

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-512(7) Governance of Schools  
IDAPA 16.02.10.025.032

Policy History:

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