

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES – STUDENTS

Background

The existence of numerous communicable diseases, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome, requires Divisions to provide directives with regard to management of infected students. Such directives must reflect both the preservation of the public interest as well as the protection of individual rights and freedoms.

The Division is committed to the humane treatment of students infected with communicable diseases within an environment that protects the health and safety of all students and staff.

Guidelines

1. Normally, students with communicable diseases will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act.
2. Children with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) shall be allowed to attend school programs in an unrestricted setting unless, in the opinion of the local medical health officer, special circumstances dictate otherwise.
3. The right of infected students to privacy will be respected by staff, including the confidentiality of records.
4. Information about communicable diseases will be provided to students as part of the regular instructional program as specified within the Alberta Program of Studies and related curriculum guides.

Procedures:

1. When a principal knows that a student (or staff member) has a communicable disease, this must be reported to the local Public Health Centre. (see Appendix 340A)
2. The principal will consult with the Public Health Centre to determine if there is a need to inform other children, their parents or staff of any communicable disease. (eg. Fifth Disease is a concern for pregnant women.) (see Appendix 340A)

Reference: Public Health Act
Ministerial Directive HIV/AIDS in Educational Settings 4.1.1

LIST OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
Amoebiasis
Anthrax
Arboviral Infections (including Dengue)
Botulism
Brucellosis
Campylobacter
Cerebrospinal Fluid Isolates
Chicken Pox •
Cholera
Congenital Infections (includes Cytomegalovirus, Hepatitis B, Herpes Simplex, Rubella, Toxoplasmosis, Varicella-Zoster)
Dengue
Diphtheria •
Encephalitis (specified or unspecified) •
Enteric Pathogens *
Fifth Disease
Foodborne Illness *
Gastroenteritis, epidemic *
Giardiasis
Hemophilus Influenza Infections (invasive) •
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome
Hepatitis A, B, Non-A, Non-B •
Influenza (Flu)
Kawasaki Disease
Lassa Fever
Legionella Infections
Leprosy
Leptospirosis
Malaria
Measles •
Meningitis (all causes) •
Meningococcal Infections
Mumps •
Neonatal Herpes
Nosocomial Infections
Ophthalmia Neonatorum (all causes)
Paratyphoid
Pertussis (Whooping Cough) •
Plague
Poliomyelitis •
Psittacosis

Q-Fever
Rabies
Ringworm
Rye Syndrome •
Rickettsial Infections
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
Rubella (including Congenital Rubella)
Rubeola •
Salmonella Infections •
Scabies
Shigella Infections •
Smallpox
Stool Pathogens, all types *
Tetanus
Toxic Shock Syndrome
Tuberculosis •
Tularaemia
Typhoid
Typhus
Varicella
Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (including Marburg, Ebola, Lassa, Argentinean, African Hemorrhagic Fevers)
Waterborne Illness (all causes) *
Yellow Fever

- * Enteric Pathogens, Food-borne Illness, Gastroenteritis, epidemic and Waterborne Illness include the following and any other identified or unidentified cause: Aeromonas; Bacillus cereus; Campylobacter; Clostridium botulinum and perfringens; E. Coli (enteropathogenic serotypes); Salmonella; Shigella; Staphylococcus; Viruses such as Norwalk and Rotavirus; Yersona.
- These communicable diseases must be reported to the local Public Health Authority under the Public Health Act.