

Policy

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES/INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Code JGCC Issued 3/16/22

When the District takes action with respect to students or employees found to have a communicable disease, such action will be consistent with rights afforded individuals under state and federal statutory, regulatory, and Constitutional provisions. The District will treat each such case on an individual basis. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control will be the definitive authority on the identification and transmission of chronic communicable diseases.

Exclusion from School

The policies of the Board will be to attempt to provide a safe and secure environment for all students and employees. Under certain circumstances, the presence of communicable diseases in the school environment may pose a threat to the health and safety of students and employees. In an effort to maintain a balance between the need to educate all eligible students, and to protect student and employee rights and to control communicable diseases, decisions regarding the attendance of students with communicable diseases will be made on a case by case basis. Decision makers will consult with the student's physician and parent/legal guardian as appropriate, respect the student's and family's privacy rights and reassess the placement if there is a change in the student's need for accommodations or services.

In accordance with statutory authority, specifically S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, Sections 44-1-110, 44-1-140, and 44-29-10, students will be excluded from attendance if they have one or more of the conditions found on the official list of conditions required exclusion from schools from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). This exclusion list includes specific conditions for duration of school or childcare exclusion as well as criteria for return, and it applies to both students and staff. Schools should maintain a record of children excluded under this regulation. All schools should report confirmed cases of communicable diseases and outbreaks or clusters of symptoms to the local county health department as recommended by the school exclusion list. The principal in consultation with the school nurse and attendance personnel will be responsible for these records.

Cleaning Procedures

In order to inhibit the spread of any communicable disease, all schools will develop routine procedures for cleaning up spilled blood or bodily fluids, consistent with State law and regulations.

Student Athletics

The privilege of participating in physical education classes, athletic programs, competitive sports and recess is not conditional on a person's HIV status. School authorities will make reasonable accommodations to allow students living with HIV infection to participate in school-sponsored physical activities.

Employees must consistently adhere to infection control guidelines in locker rooms and all play and athletic settings. Rule books will reflect these guidelines. First aid kits that include personal protective equipment for preventing exposure to blood borne pathogens must be on hand at every athletic event.

PAGE 2 – JGCC – COMMUNICABLE DISEASES/INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Physical education teachers and athletic program staff members should complete an approved first aid and injury prevention course or training that includes implementation of infection control guidelines. Student orientation about safety on the playing field will include guidelines on avoiding HIV infection.

Privacy

State regulations require that the superintendent, school nurse, or other health professional who receives notice of a minor's infectious disease status must keep the information strictly confidential. Violation of the confidentiality requirements is a violation of state law.

Every employee has a duty to treat as highly confidential any knowledge or speculation concerning the infectious disease status of a student or other staff member. Information regarding the medical condition of students must be maintained in strict confidence and may only be revealed consistent with State law and regulations.

Head lice (Pediculosis)

If a teacher suspects a child of having head lice, he/she will notify the school nurse or principal's designee. If the student has an active infestation, school personnel will notify the parents/legal guardians by telephone or in writing with recommendations for treatment procedures.

The school will inform parents/legal guardians, teachers, school nurses and administrators of the following.

- recommendations for treatment procedures
- documentation required for readmission to school

Readmission to school

The District prohibits a student who is sent home with head lice from returning to school until he/she meets the following conditions.

- The student shows evidence of treatment as determined by the school.
- The student passes a physical screening by the school nurse or principal's designee that shows the absence of head lice.

At no time will a student be allowed to return to school without proof of treatment and a screening.

Adopted 4/9/91; Revised 3/15/22

Legal references:

- A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
1. Section 44-29-200 - Attendance of teachers or pupils with contagious or infectious disease may be prohibited.
 2. Section 44-29-195 - Requirements for returning to school after having head lice.
 3. Section 44-29-200 – Attendance of teachers or students with contagious or infectious disease may be prohibited.
 4. Section 59-10-220 – Adoption and notification of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations on universal precautions for bloodborne disease exposure.

PAGE 3 – JGCC – COMMUNICABLE DISEASES/INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- B. Code of Federal Regulations, as amended:
 - 1. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, CFR 1910.134 - Respiratory protection.
 - 2. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, CFR 1910.1030 - Bloodborne pathogens.

- C. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Regulations:
 - 1. R-61-20 - Communicable diseases.
 - 2. R-61-21 - Sexually transmitted diseases.