

Communicable Diseases

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 such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. The District will rely on advice of public officials 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.

The District will manage common communicable diseases in accordance with Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services guidelines and communicable diseases control rules. The District may temporarily exclude from school attendance a student who exhibits symptoms of a communicable disease that is readily transmitted in a school setting or has suppressed immunity in order to protect the welfare of that child when others in a school have a communicable disease.

Students who complain of illness at school may be referred to a school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board and may be sent home as soon as a parent or person designated on a student's emergency medical authorization form has been notified. The District reserves the right to require a statement from a student's primary care provider authorizing a student's return to school.

When information is received by a staff member or a volunteer that a student is afflicted with a serious communicable disease, the staff member or volunteer will promptly notify a school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board to determine appropriate measures to be taken to protect student and staff health and safety. A school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board, after consultation with and on advice of public officials, will determine which additional staff members, if any, have need to know of the affected student's condition.

Only those persons with direct responsibility for the care of a student or for determining appropriate educational accommodation will be informed of the specific nature of a condition, if it is determined that such individuals need to know this information.

The District may notify parents of other children attending a school that their children have been exposed to a communicable disease without identifying the particular student who has the disease.

Legal Reference: 37.114.101, et seq., ARM Communicable Disease Control

Cross Reference: Board Policy 3600

Policy History:

Presented to the Board for First Reading on April 28, 2020 and posted for public comment

Adopted on: