

STUDENTS

Infectious Diseases

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, the superintendent shall implement procedures assuring that all school buildings are in compliance with State Board of Health rules and regulations regarding the presence of persons who have or have been exposed to infectious diseases deemed dangerous to the public health. Such procedures shall also prescribe the manner in which safeguards are taken to remove the danger to others.

The district shall require that the parents or guardian shall complete a medical history form at the beginning of the each school year. The nurse may use such reports to advise the parents or guardian of the need for further medical attention and to plan for potential health problems in school.

The board authorizes the school principal to exclude students who have been diagnosed by a physician, or are suspected of having an infectious disease, in accordance with the most current Infectious Disease Control Guide. The principal and/or school nurse shall report the presence of suspected cases of reportable communicable disease to the appropriate local health authority as required by the State Board of Health. Such information concerning a student's present and past health condition shall be treated as confidential. The principal shall cooperate with the local health officials in the investigation of the source of the disease.

The fact that a student has been tested for a sexually transmitted disease, the test result, any information relating to the diagnosis or treatment of a sexually transmitted disease, and any information regarding drug or alcohol treatment for a student must be kept strictly confidential. If the district has a release, the information may be disclosed pursuant to the restrictions in the release.

The school principal has the authority to send an ill child home without the concurrence of the local health officer, but if the disease is reportable, the local health officer must be notified. The local health officer is the primary source in the identification and control of infectious disease in the community and schools. The local health officer, in consultation with the superintendent can take whatever action is deemed necessary to control or eliminate the spread of disease, including closing a school.

Legal References:	RCW 28A.210.010	Contagious diseases, limiting contact - Rules and regulations
	RCW 70.02	Medical records - health care information access and disclosure

Date: 5/12/88; 12/1/97; 7/26/99; 10/28/02; 5/23/05; 11/26/07.