

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND SYSTEMATIC IMMUNIZATION OF STUDENTS

Background

The District, in accordance with Sections 89 and 91 of the *School Act*, may, on recommendation of the Medical Health Officer, restrict the attendance of a student or employee, in its responsibility to protect students and employees from exposure to communicable diseases.

All students attending District schools must provide documentation of protection against communicable diseases.

The objective of this Administrative Procedure is to protect students against the spread of communicable diseases and to enable them to continue their learning in school if an outbreak of any of these diseases occurs.

The District and its employees will cooperate fully with the Fraser Health Authority in coordinating public health services and in promoting public health awareness.

Procedures

1. The recommendation of the Medical Health Officer is the basis for the District's decision as to whether a student or an employee's attendance is restricted from the school.
2. For specific reportable communicable diseases, principals are to contact the school's Public Health Nurse for direction.
3. The Principal of each school will ensure that parents and/or guardians of each student registering in the school for the first time in Kindergarten or other years will provide one of the following:
 - 3.1 A record of the student's immunization verified by a physician or a Health Unit. The record will indicate the dates of each immunization against reportable communicable diseases.
 - 3.2 A written statement from the parent/guardian that he/she is a conscientious objector to immunization.
4. The Public Health Nurse will record the immunization status for each child. All immunization records or statements will be attached to the registration forms and given to the school's Public Health Nurse.
5. The Medical Health Officer and/or Public Health Nurse will advise the Principal which children are to be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease.

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6. Reporting of Suspected Case

- 6.1 If an employee is aware that another employee or student is suffering from a communicable disease, he/she shall immediately report this information to the local Public Health Unit, the Principal and the Superintendent.
- 6.2 The Medical Health Officer will act in accordance with Sections 89, 90, or 91 of the *School Act* and will inform the Superintendent, in writing, of his/her findings and recommendations.

7. Control of Communicable Diseases in School

- 7.1 Communicable diseases are not unusual in school. Most are of minor importance.
- 7.2 The infections can occur among staff and affect students, or among students and affect staff or other students.
- 7.3 Standard precautions must be practiced at all times and the necessary supplies must be present in classrooms and medical rooms. The precautions are:
 - 7.3.1 Use disposable gloves when cleaning up vomit or feces, or blood or other bodily fluids;
 - 7.3.2 Have suitable disposal materials available – paper towels, tissues, for wiping areas clean from blood, etc. and for blowing noses;
 - 7.3.3 Clean up body wastes and fluids, i.e., vomit, feces, urine, blood, discharges from cuts and sores, and from the nose, ears and eyes with paper towels;
 - 7.3.4 Have suitable first aid dressing available to cover open wounds, and ensure proper hand hygiene has been performed prior to dressing a wound;
 - 7.3.5 Discard used paper towels and materials used to dress wounds into a separate plastic bag, and place in larger garbage can for immediate removal and disposal;
 - 7.3.6 Clean the area with a household disinfectant; and,
 - 7.3.7 Allow to air dry.
 - 7.3.8 Hands must be washed following contact with potentially infected matter.
 - 7.3.9 The immunization status of all staff and students is to be as complete and as current as possible. Tetanus and diphtheria immunizations are also recommended every 10 years and are available, free-of-charge, from the local Public Health Unit or your family physician.
 - 7.3.10 All reportable communicable diseases must be reported to the Medical Health Officer, usually through the Public Health Nurse.

For more information, please see "[A Quick Guide to Common Childhood Diseases](#)" published by the [Ministry of Health](#).

*Reference: Sections 17, 20, 22, 65, 85, 89, 90, 91 School Act
Health Act
Safety Standards Act
Workers' Compensation Act
Communicable Diseases Regulation
Occupational Health and Safety Regulation
A Quick Guide to Common Childhood Diseases*

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