

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 steps to remove the danger to others.

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

The board authorizes the school principal to exclude a student who has been diagnosed by a Licensed Health Care Provider (LHP) or is suspected of having an infectious disease in accordance with the regulations within the most current Infectious Disease Control Guide, provided by the State Department of Health (DOH) and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The principal and/or school nurse shall report the presence of suspected case or cases of reportable communicable disease to the appropriate local health authority as required by the DOH. The district and its staff will treat all information concerning a student's present and past health condition as confidential. The principal shall co-operate 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 receives authorization to release information, the district may disclose information pursuant to the restrictions in the release.

A 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 district must notify the local health officer. The local health officer is the primary resource in the identification and control of infectious disease in the community and school. The local health officer, in consultation with the superintendent can take whatever action 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
Ch 246-110 WAC	School districts and day care
	centers — Contagious diseases
RCW 70.02	Medical records — health care
	information access and
	disclosure

Management Resources:

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Colton School District

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