

PORT EDWARDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education Policy

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The health and safety of students and staff need to be considered in dealing with the presence of communicable diseases.

Communicable disease control shall be maintained in cooperation with the local health department, who shall be notified at once of any suspected or any confirmed communicable disease(s).

When communicable disease concerns occur, resource people, in addition to state and local health agencies, will be contacted as needed. A listing of communicable diseases and related communicable disease information will be made available at both schools.

Students with suspected cases of communicable diseases shall be sent home for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment by a teacher, the school's registered nurse, principal, or other designated personnel. Parents/guardians are to be contacted immediately when a student is suspected to have a communicable disease.

The building principal is to be informed when a student is sent home with a communicable disease, suspected or confirmed.

The local health department shall be notified of any suspected or confirmed case of reportable communicable disease.

Students who have contracted a communicable disease will be excluded from school and will be readmitted at such time as it is determined by health care officials that the risk of transmission has subsided.

Procedures will be implemented in dealing with specific communicable diseases as needed, in accordance with state or local health department guidelines and with direction from health care officials.

An appeal may be made within five school days to the district administrator in situations of disagreement with the decision or recommendation of health care officials.

Guidelines for handling blood and body fluids will be made available to all school personnel.

Confidentiality of information under this policy will be handled in accordance with school board policy, and state laws and regulations.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 103.15 Wisconsin Statutes

111.31-111.395

118.01(2)(d)2c

118.125

118.13

118.15(3)

118.195

118.20

121.02(1)(i)

146.81-146.83

252.21

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services Administrative Rules HFS 145

Chapter 252 COMM 32, Wisconsin Administrative Code

CROSS REF.: 347 – Policy, Student Records
Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan

Adopted: 10/12/87

Reviewed:

Revised: 02/15/05

453.3 – Rule (1)

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

- I. Listing of Communicable Diseases
 - A. A listing of communicable diseases and information relating to the control of communicable diseases will be posted in each school in the area of the health services office.
 - B. This listing will be updated as needed.

- II. Procedures for Suspected Cases of Communicable Disease(s)
 - A. School district personnel are responsible for reporting suspected cases of communicable diseases to the school's registered nurse or building principal and, in their absence, other designated school personnel.
 - B. Should the determination be made, using appropriate resources as needed, that the student poses a health risk to others in the school environment, the school's registered nurse or building principal, or other designated school personnel, shall notify the parent/guardian or other responsible party that the student needs to be excluded from school and school-related activities.
 - C. Diagnosis and treatment should be sought from the family physician.
 - D. The school's registered nurse, or other designated school personnel, will inform the building principal of the suspected communicable disease and of the exclusion of the student.
 - E. The school's registered nurse, or the building principal, will notify the local health department of the suspected reportable communicable disease, or of any non-reportable communicable disease, if it occurs in large numbers.
 - F. Temporary exclusion from school may be in effect until such time that appropriate health care officials determine that the student can return to school, with any necessary modifications or program planning completed.
 - G. The school may require a physician's statement about a student's suitability to attend school when a student has been suspected as having a communicable disease.

- III. Procedures for Confirmed Cases of Communicable Disease(s)
 - A. A student who has a diagnosed communicable disease and poses a health risk to others will be excluded from school.
 - B. The school's registered nurse, or the building principal, will notify the local health department of the diagnosed reportable communicable disease, or of any non-reportable communicable disease, if it occurs in large numbers.
 - C. Temporary exclusion from school may be in effect until such time that appropriate health care officials determine that the student can return to school, with any necessary modifications or program planning completed.
 - D. The school may require a physician's statement about a student's suitability to attend school when a student has been diagnosed as having a communicable disease.

- IV. Procedures for Specific Communicable Diseases
 - A. Procedures for specific communicable diseases will be in accordance with state and/or local health department guidelines.
 - B. Many communicable diseases do not pose a great public threat and can be managed by the parents, principal, the school's registered nurse or other designated school personnel.
 - C. Some communicable disease, even those less common, can be more dangerous to the public and will need to be handled individually, with direction from health care officials.
 - D. Special attention utilizing federal/state/local health department guidelines and health officials' directions will need to be taken in the following areas:
 1. Any student in the infectious stage of a serious airborne-transmitted disease; i.e., chicken pox, measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis, T.B.
 2. Any student unable to hygienically manage their bowel and bladder functions and is in the infectious stage of an oral/fecal-transmitted communicable disease; i.e. Hepatitis A, gastro-intestinal viruses, such as giardiasis, salmonella, shigella, and rotavirus; and parasites, such as pinworms.
 3. Any student having a disease which can be transmitted by blood or body fluids and has open lesions and whose developmental level or behavioral pattern makes it difficult for the student to refrain either from touching the lesion and therefore spreading the underlying infection or from biting (i.e., very young or developmentally delayed students); i.e., diseases such as impetigo, Hepatitis B, AIDS, Staphylococcus Aureus, BetaHemolytic Streptococcus, Conjunctivitis.

4. Any student with a communicable disease when the risk of transmission can only occur through sexual or intimate contact; i.e., gonorrhea, genital herpes, trichomonas vaginalis, AIDS, Cytomegalovirus, or Chlamydia.
5. Any student with a communicable disease that can be controlled through the education of the child and staff and the provision of readily available supplies to carry out hygiene measures.
6. Any student who is not immunized for diseases as required and a substantial outbreak of one of the diseases occurs at school or in the community.

V. Appeal Process

- A. In situations where there is disagreement with the health care official's decision or recommendation, an appeal may be made within five days to the district administrator.
- B. The appeal shall be made in writing to the district administrator and shall include the following:
 1. Statement of fact
 2. Statement of the relief requested
 3. Any necessary medical information required
- C. Upon receipt of the appeal, and using appropriate resources, the superintendent shall render a written decision.
- D. In the event that there is disagreement with the district administrator's decision, the matter may be appealed within five days to the school board. (For purposes of this procedure, a day shall be defined to exclude Saturdays, Sundays, and school holidays.)

VI. Guidelines for Handling Blood and/or Body Fluids

- A. Guidelines, adapted from those provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, provide simple and effective precautions against transmission of disease for all persons potentially exposed to the blood or body fluids of any students and staff.
- B. No distinction is made between blood and body fluids of individuals. All spillages of these fluids from whatever source shall be handled according to guidelines.
- C. The guidelines will be made available to all school personnel and will be posted in or near custodial cleaning material storage areas in both schools, in the health services office in both schools, and designated areas.

VII. Confidentiality of Information

- A. Records and information pertaining to a student's suspected or confirmed communicable disease are confidential and will be handled in accordance with the state law and school board policy on students records.
- B. The school district shall respect the right to privacy of the individual; therefore, knowledge that a student is suspected or has a communicable disease will be confined to those persons with a direct need to know. HIV-related test records may not be shared with anyone without the informed written consent of the test subject, or in the case of a minor student, the student's parent/guardian.
- C. "Need to know" staff will include principal, the school's registered nurse, appropriate teacher or teachers and the local health department.
- D. The "need to know" staff will be provided with appropriate information concerning such precautions as may be necessary and should be aware of confidentiality requirements.
- E. Students' records will be maintained in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- F. Records regarding HIV infections shall be held in a separate manner from the remainder of the student's records.
 1. Records regarding HIV infections shall remain confidential as required by law.
 2. If a child has been diagnosed as having confirmed AIDS, this information should be reported to the local public health department and state epidemiologist, as required by law. Those persons should be provided with appropriate information concerning such precautions as may be necessary and they should be aware of confidentiality requirements and the penalties that may result from wrongful disclosure.

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTROL AND TREATMENT OF HEAD LICE / NITS IN THE SCHOOLS

Pediculosis (Head Lice) is a communicable disease and Port Edwards School District practices a no nit/no lice policy to facilitate lice control.

No pediculicide (medicinal shampoo treatment) is 100% ovicidal (egg killing). The use of only a pediculicide will result in the eggs hatching at a rate of 5-30%, thus the need for nit removal.

These guidelines call for:

1. The removal of all lice, lice eggs (nits), and egg cases following application of a pediculicide agent. (We do not recommend using a generic brand. There has not been a good success rate of eliminating the problem with these products.)
2. The exclusion of a child from the school until such treatment has been accomplished.
3. Parents/guardians will be informed of the student's exclusion from school and have the role and responsibility for the removal of nits.
4. Staff of Port Edwards School District will not be responsible for the removal of nits.
5. Written/verbal instructions regarding treatment options, lice and nit removal, and home cleaning will be provided for parents/guardians of the student.
6. Student re-entry to school must be approved by the school nurse or trained personnel of the district. School staff is responsible for checking for head lice and nits before students are allowed to return to the classroom. No student will be allowed to return to the classroom if head lice or nits are found on the student.