

POLICY
SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Subject: Communicable Diseases	Date Approved: April 15, 1986 March 17, 2009 Date Revised: February 17, 2009 Date Effective: March 17, 2009

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish regulations and procedures to assist school personnel in controlling the spread of communicable diseases within the school setting..

2. GUIDELINES

The Somerset County Public Schools System will work collaboratively with the Somerset County Health Department to to establish procedures for dealing with communicable disease prevention and control in the school setting.. The local health department is designated by COMAR to manage communicable disease issues. Out breaks of reportable communicable diseases shall be immediately reported to the Somerset County Health Department.

3. PROCESS AND CONTENT

MANAGEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SUSPECTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

STUDENTS: The following steps will be taken in accordance with the *Communicable Disease Summary: Guide for School and Child Care*:

- Isolate the student as appropriate
- Notify the principal or designee as appropriate
- Notify the parents or guardians
- Exclude the student as appropriate and refer to a health care provider for diagnosis and treatment
- Notify the local health department of any confirmed or suspected *reportable* disease (in accordance with the current edition of the *Communicable Disease Summary*).
- Determine when return to school is appropriate, e.g., a communicable disease is ruled out by the physician, the period of communicability has passed, the student is receiving appropriate treatment, or the doctor or health department verifies that the student is no longer infectious.
- Maintain the student's right to privacy. The decision whether to share information concerning the student's health status should be made on a case by case basis with the principal making the final decision in consultation with the Nurse Manager..

STAFF: When an employee is suspected of having a communicable disease, the Nurse Manager, along with consultation of other appropriate school and Health Department personnel, will determine if it is necessary to exclude an employee from work. The employee's right to privacy must be maintained. The decision whether to share information concerning an employee's health status should be made on a case by case basis with the Administrator making the final decision in consultation with the Nurse Manager.

Decisions about when an employee is permitted to return to work will be made based on the following , in consultation with the Somerset County Health Department:

- The communicable disease is ruled out by the physician, or
- The period of communicability has passed, or
- The individual is receiving appropriate treatment, or
- A verification for return to work is received from the physician

TRAINING: Information and/or in service training, will be provided by school health services staff for students, school personnel, and parents (as needed or as requested) concerning communicable diseases, modes of transmission, and preventive measures, including but not limited to, proper handwashing techniques, good hygiene practices, and universal precautions. The local health department will serve as a consult and educational resource the health services staff.

REFERENCES:

Maryland State School Health Services Guidelines/ Communicable Diseases (April 2002)

Communicable Diseases Summary: A Guide for School Health Services Personnel and Child Care Providers (March 2008)