

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES - AR

I. PURPOSE

The Talbot County Board of Education in consultation with the Talbot County Health Department, the Maryland State Department of Education, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and any other appropriate agency public or private, has established these regulations to aid school personnel in preventing and controlling communicable diseases within all school settings in Talbot County Public Schools (TCPS).

II. DEFINITIONS

Within the context of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- A. Communicable Disease – An illness due to a specific infectious agent or its toxic products that arises through transmission of the agent or its toxins from an infected person, animal, or inanimate reservoir to a susceptible host.
- B. Confidentiality – The non-disclosure or non-transmission of information to unauthorized parties by employees, service providers, or volunteers.
- C. Exposure – Contact with an infectious person, environment, contaminated item, or surface that may be capable of disease transmission.
- D. Outbreak – An increase in the number of infections that occur close in time and location in a facility, above the baseline rate usually found in that facility. Usually the cases are presumed to have a common cause or to be related to one another.
- E. Service Providers – Individuals who provide services to the TCPS, either through contract, grant, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), or volunteer service, when those services involve access to students and employees, such as substitute teachers, mentors, chaperones, bus drivers, and individuals who participate in committees, advisory groups, and partnership programs.
- F. Surveillance – The ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data in order to improve health and safety and to assist in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practices.

- G. Transmission – Passage of a specific infectious agent from a source person, animal, or inanimate object to a susceptible host, either by:
 - 1. Direct transmission occurring when the infectious agent is transferred by direct contact, i.e., touching, kissing, sexual intercourse, biting, or by direct projection of droplets spread by talking, sneezing, spitting, coughing, singing, or other means.
 - 2. Indirect transmission occurring via contaminated objects, or materials, e.g., toys, soiled clothing, bedding, cooking or eating utensils, food, water, or milk.

III. STANDARDS

- A. The TCPS will work collaboratively with the Talbot County Health Department (TCHD) to control outbreaks of communicable diseases in the school setting.
- B. The TCPS will implement surveillance and reporting procedures in collaboration with the TCHD.
- C. The TCPS will provide assistance to families to ensure students are in compliance with current immunization regulations from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH).
- D. Students, employees, service providers, or volunteers suspected of/or showing symptoms of communicable disease will be case-managed in accordance with the MDH guidelines in consultation with the TCHD.
- E. Information about individuals with a communicable disease must be maintained in accordance with TCPS Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Any student suspected of having a communicable disease will adhere to the following procedures:

1. A student suspected of having a communicable disease transmissible in the school setting shall be isolated in the health room or other designated area, and the principal or his designee will notify the parents to arrange for transfer of this child to home.
2. The principal will report all suspected or diagnosed cases of reportable communicable diseases to the Office of Student Services, who will report to the local health department.
3. The student will remain at home until no longer infectious as outlined by TCHD guidance, or until the physician certifies the student's return
4. Decisions regarding the type of educational setting for students with certain communicable diseases shall be made on a case-by case basis by a team, including the student's physician, the student's parent or guardian, the local health officer or designee, a representative from the Office of Student Services and the principal, or designee. In the process of making an appropriate recommendation, the team should consider the following medical, personal and social factors:
 - a. available medical knowledge;
 - b. behavior;
 - c. neurologic development; and
 - d. physical condition of the student.Following the team discussion, the local health officer will forward a written recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools who will make the final decision regarding the infected student's educational setting.
5. Students who are known carriers of a communicable disease and their parents shall be informed about the control measures for minimizing the transmission of the specific disease.

B. Any employee suspected of having a communicable disease will adhere to the following procedures:

1. The next-in-line administrator will arrange for any employee suspected of having a communicable disease transmissible in the school setting to leave his assignment as soon as possible.
2. The administrator will report all suspected or diagnosed cases of reportable communicable diseases to the Human Resources Department who will notify the local health department.

3. The employee will remain at home until no longer infectious as outlined by TCHD guidance or until the physician certifies the employee's return.
4. The determination of whether a school employee with certain communicable diseases should be permitted to remain employed in a capacity that involves contact with students or other school employees shall be made on a case-by-case basis by a team including the employee, the employee's physician, the local health officer or designee, a representative of the Office of Human Resources and the employee's next-in-line administrator. In the process of making an appropriate recommendation, the team should consider the following medical, personal and social factors:
 - a. available medical knowledge;
 - b. the physical condition of the employee; and
 - c. the expected type of interaction with others in the school setting.

Following the team discussion, the local health officer will forward a written recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools who will make the final decision regarding the status of the infected employee.
5. Employees who are known carriers of a communicable disease shall be informed about the control measures for minimizing the transmission of the specific disease.

C. Notification Guidelines

TCPS will follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Outbreak Criteria and requirements when notifying parents/guardians and staff of exposure to a communicable disease. This criteria and requirement is as follows:

1. Three or more cases in a cohort (classroom) within 14 days of each other; and
2. A report will be made to the Talbot County Health Department of an outbreak of the disease.

Once a communicable disease meets the criteria listed above, the school shall send notification to all parents/guardians and staff who were exposed to the communicable disease.

D. Prevention Guidelines

1. All schools must follow Immunization Guidelines.

2. All schools must follow Universal Precautions.

3. Anyone working in a school environment should be appropriately immunized. (For example - Hepatitis B, TD, measles).

E. Student's and Employee's Right to Privacy

Persons involved with the education of a student or the supervision of an employee with a communicable disease shall respect that person's right to privacy. The number of people aware of the person's condition will be limited to those people who need to know.

F. General Guidelines To Be Followed and Staff to Minimize Transmission of Communicable Diseases

1. Hand washing with soap and running water for 15 to 30 seconds and drying with disposable paper towels is the single most important technique for preventing the spread of disease and should be done as necessary. All students and personnel should be informed of the importance of hand washing and effective methods of hand washing. Hand washing must be done:

a. Before putting on smock (if a smock is indicated) or large blouse or shirt or cover street clothes, in preparation for working with the students.

b. Before and after drinking or eating.

c. Before handling clean utensils or equipment.

d. Before and after handling student's food.

e. Before and after assisting or training a student in toileting and feeding.

f. After going to the bathroom.

- g. After contact with body secretions, such as blood (including menstrual), urine, feces, mucus, saliva or drainage from wounds.
- soiled diapers, menstrual or equipment.
- to secretions or excretions of
- removing disposable gloves.
- removing smock or shirt when leaving work area.
- h. After handling pads, garments
- i. After exposure any student.
- j. After
- k. After the

2. Mouthing of toys, pencils and other shared items should be strongly discouraged.

3. Avoid rubbing or touching eyes.

4. Avoid sharing personal care items, such as combs, fingernail files, nail clippers, lipsticks and toothbrushes.

5. Keep fingernails clean, trimmed, and short.

6. Maintain optimum health through effective daily health practices such as adequate nutrition, rest, exercise and appropriate medical supervision.

G. Each Facility Must Make Provisions for Personnel and Environmental Cleanliness

1. Provide ready access to hand washing facilities.

2. Provide disposable paper towels. If cloth towels are used, place them with other contaminated linens after each use.

3. Maintain storage areas for clean clothing, linens, utensils, equipment and disposable items. These areas must be separate from areas used for storage of soiled items.

4. Keep soiled disposable items in covered waste receptacles lined with disposable plastic bags. At the end of each day, the plastic bags are to be discarded. DO NOT REUSE.

5. Sanitize all surfaces involved in diapering or surfaces or items which have been mouthed by students (including toys) in classrooms serving developmentally delayed children on a daily basis. An appropriate disinfectant or a freshly prepared solution, one-quarter cup of household bleach in one gallon of water, to clean blood spills, etc..

H. All schools must have a copy of "Guidelines for Communicable Disease Management in a School Setting" which includes specific guidelines and general information on the following communicable diseases:

AIDS

Chickenpox (Primary Varicella Zoster Virus Infection)

Chlamydia (*Chlamydia Trachomatis*)

Common Cold

Conjunctivitis, Infectious (Infectious Pink Eye)

Diarrheal Illness: *Campylobacter*

Diarrheal Illness: *E. Coli* O157:H7 And Other Stec (Shiga Toxinproducing *E. Coli*)

Diarrheal Illness: *Giardia*

Diarrheal Illness: Norovirus

Diarrheal Illness: Rotavirus

Diarrheal Illness: *Salmonella*

Diarrheal Illness: *Shigella*

Diphtheria (*Corynebacterium Diphtheriae*)

Ehrlichiosis (*Ehrlichia*)

Fifth Disease (Erythema Infectiosum, Parvovirus B19)

Gonorrhea (*Neisseria Gonorrhoeae*, *Gonococcus*)

Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib) Disease

Hand, Foot And Mouth Disease (Various Coxsackieviruses)

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis C

Herpes Simplex Virus (Cold Sores, Fever Blisters, Or Genital Herpes Sores)

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection, Includes Aids

Impetigo (Staphylococcal Or Streptococcal Skin Infection)

Influenza (Seasonal)

Lice, Body (*Pediculosis Corporis*)

Lice, Head (*Pediculosis Capitis*)

Lyme Disease (*Borrelia Burgdorferi*)

Measles (Rubeola)

Meningitis, Viral Or Aseptic (Including Enterovirus, Measles, Herpes, Adenovirus)
Meningitis, Bacterial (*Haemophilus Influenzae*, *Neisseria Meningitidis*, *Streptococcus Pneumoniae*, *Listeria*)
Meningococcal Disease (*Neisseria Meningitidis*)
Mumps
Pertussis (*Bordatella Pertussis*, Whooping Cough)
Pinworms (*Enterobius Vermicularis*)
Pneumococcal Disease (*Streptococcus Pneumoniae*)
Poliomyelitis
Rabies (And Rabies Exposure)
Ringworm Of Scalp (*Tinea Capitis*)
Ringworm Of Skin Or Body (*Tinea Corporis*)
Roseola (Human Herpesvirus 6, Exanthem Subitum, Sixth Disease)
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
Rsv (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)
Rubella (German Measles)
Scabies
Shingles (Also Known As Zoster; Reactivation Of Prior Infection With Varicella Zoster Virus)
Staphylococcal Disease (“Staph”), Including Mrsa, (Methicillinresistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*)
Streptococcal Disease (Strep Throat, Scarlet Fever)
Syphilis
Tuberculosis (Tb, *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis*)
Typhoid Fever (*Salmonella Typhi*)

