

# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSVILLE BOARD POLICY

## STUDENTS

### STUDENT HEALTH AND WELFARE

#### COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

453.3

It is the policy of the Pittsville School District, pursuant to federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and in cooperation with state and local public health agencies, to establish and maintain appropriate health standards for the school environment, to promote the good health of students and staff, and to educate students and staff in disease prevention methods and sound health practices.

In an effort to maintain a safe and healthful school environment, the District will provide educational opportunities to students and staff regarding measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of contracting or transmitting communicable diseases (including HIV infection) at school and in school-related activities.

In recognition that an individual's health status is personal and private, the District will handle information regarding students and staff with suspected or confirmed communicable diseases in accord with state and federal law and Board policies regarding the confidentiality of student and staff records, while at the same time complying with applicable public health reporting requirements.

Students and staff may be excluded from school and/or school-related activities if they are suspected of or diagnosed as having a communicable disease as defined in the administrative interpretation that poses a significant health risk to others or that renders them unable adequately to perform their jobs or pursue their studies. Students and staff excluded from school pursuant to this policy may appeal their exclusion as set forth in the administrative procedure.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

##### *Educational and Preventive Measures:*

1. The District will ensure that all examinations/inoculations required of students and staff have been obtained.
2. The nurse serving the school shall be responsible for the appropriate maintenance of a health station in each school building. The nurse shall ensure that a list of communicable diseases is available for review by interested students and staff.
3. Information regarding suppression and control of communicable diseases will be included as a regular part of the curriculum for students.
4. Information regarding suppression and control of communicable diseases will be included in orientation sessions for new staff and will be used periodically in training programs for existing staff.
5. Standard procedures as set forth in the current edition of *Control of Communicable Diseases in Man* to prevent the spread of communicable diseases transmitted by air (such as tuberculosis, chicken pox, measles, mumps, and rubella) or by exchange of body fluids (such as hepatitis A and B, rotavirus, cytomegalovirus, salmonella, staphylococcus aureus, and AIDS) and the spread of other conditions (such as pediculosis, scabies, and body lice) will be followed by all staff in the performance of their duties.

6. First-aid kits and other supplies and equipment appropriated to reducing the risk of transmission of communicable diseases in the school environment, as determined by the nurse serving the school in cooperation with local public health officials, will be provided in each school building.

***Confidentiality/Reporting:***

1. The Building Principal shall function as the District's liaison with students and staff, parents, and physicians, public health officials, and the community at large concerning communicable disease issues in the school.
2. Any person who knows or suspects that a student or staff member has a communicable disease shall report the facts to the Principal.
3. The Principal will confer with the nurse serving the school and, to the extent circumstances warrant and permit, with the subject of the report and, for student subjects, the student's parents or guardian.
4. If required, pursuant to public health statutes and regulations, the Principal will make a report to the local public health officer.
5. The District will maintain the confidentiality of the health records of students and staff, and will not disclose any such records except to the extent required or permitted by law and essential to the safe conduct of the District's operations.

***Exclusion from School:***

1. Students who are suspected of having a communicable disease that could be detrimental to the health of self or others in the school environment may be sent home for diagnosis and treatment. Students who are diagnosed as having a communicable disease that renders them unable to pursue their studies or poses a significant risk of transmission to others in the school environment shall be excused from school attendance until their presence no longer poses a threat to the health of themselves or others.
2. The determination as to whether and under what circumstances a student may be sent home for diagnosis and treatment or excused from school attendance shall be made by the Principal, in consultation with the nurse serving the school and, when appropriate, with local public health officials.
3. The Principal may refer this determination to the health care team. If the disease in question appears to require a lengthy period of exclusion or to pose a serious health threat to the student or others (tuberculosis, hepatitis B, and HIV infection, for example), the Principal should ordinarily refer the determination to the health care team unless referral to the M-Team is warranted.
4. For students with previously identified exceptional educational need or whose communicable disease may give rise to exceptional educational need, the Principal, in consultation with the District's Director of Special Education, may refer this determination to the M-Team. The normal membership of the M-Team making any such determination should be supplemented to the extent possible by the student's physician and parent or guardian, the local public health officer, and the Principal and nurse serving the school.
5. Before making a determination that a student should be sent home for diagnosis and treatment or excused school attendance, the Principal, health care team, or M-Team reviewing the case shall, to the extent circumstances warrant and permit, inform the student and the student's parent or guardian of the reasons for the contemplated action and shall consider any information the student and/or the student's parent or guardian may choose to offer regarding the student's condition. If a student is sent home or excused from school attendance pursuant to this procedure, the Principal shall immediately notify the student's parents or guardian of the action and the reasons therefore.

6. Alternative educational opportunities will be arranged for students who must be excused from school attendance for a significant period of time.
7. The Principal, in consultation with the nurse serving the school and, where appropriate, with local health officials, shall determine when a student who has been excused from school attendance may be readmitted, the District may require a statement from a student's physician that a student is in suitable condition to attend school.

***Appeals:***

1. A parent or guardian of a minor student or an adult student who disputes the determination or action of the Principal, health care team, or M-Team concerning exclusion of a student from school attendance pursuant to this procedure may appeal such determination or action by bringing or sending a complaint to the Superintendent of the School District of Pittsville.
2. A complaint must be made in writing, signed by the complainant, and submitted within ten consecutive school days of the disputed determination or action and must contain: a) a statement of the facts, b) a statement of the relief requested, and c) any necessary medical information.
3. The Superintendent of the School District of Pittsville shall confer with the complainant within five consecutive school days of receipt of the complaint to verify the nature of the complaint and to explain the procedure that will be followed to resolve the complaint.
4. Complaints involving the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or provision of a free appropriate public education of a student with exceptional educational in the District's Special Education Handbook.
5. Complaints involving pupil discrimination on the basis of handicap or of physical, mental, emotional, learning disability will be resolved through the procedures established by the District to comply with § 118.13 of the Wisconsin Statutes, Wisconsin Administrative Code § PI 9.04, and § 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
6. Other complaints will be resolved by the District Administrator. The District Administrator will confer with the parties involved and will render a written decision within ten consecutive school days of his/her receipt of the complaint. A complainant who remains unsatisfied with the District Administrator's decision may appeal to the School Board. This appeal must be made in writing, signed by the complainant, and submitted to the President of the School Board within ten consecutive days of the District Administrator's decision and must state the reasons for disagreement with that decision. The School Board will afford the complainant a hearing, upon request, and will render a written decision within thirty consecutive school days of receipt of the appeal or (if a hearing is held) conclusion of the hearing.
7. Except to the extent prohibited by law, a student may be excluded from school during the pendency of any appeal hereunder.

***Health Care Team:***

1. The health care team will consist of the Principal, the nurse serving the school, the local public health officer, and--to the extent the cooperation of such individuals can be obtained--the student and/or the student's parent or guardian, and the student's physician. The team will confer, as necessary, with the District's medical consultant and legal counsel and with state public health officials.
2. The health care team will convene at the request of the Principal to determine whether and under what circumstances a student may be sent home for diagnosis and treatment or excused from school attendance. The health care team may also receive referrals for the purpose of formulating recommendations regarding educational program modification short of exclusion that could permit the student to attend school without posing a significant

threat to the health of self or others.

3. The health status of a student temporarily removed from the usual school setting to protect the health of self or others will be reevaluated by the health care team at regular intervals.
4. The health care team may provide information to the District Administrator and Board to the extent permitted in light of confidentiality requirements.

***HIV Infection/AIDS:***

1. In addition to maintaining normal confidentiality regarding health records to students and staff, the District will not disclose the results of a test for the presence of an antibody to HIV except as expressly authorized by the test subject or by law.
2. Except as authorized by the affected staff member or student and/or the student's parent or guardian, knowledge that a student or staff member is HIV-infected will be disclosed only to those persons with a direct need to know.
3. Health records of students concerning HIV infections will be kept separate from the remainder of the affected individuals' records and will be disclosed only to the extent required or permitted by law.
4. As a general rule, students suspected of or diagnosed as being HIV-infected will be allowed to attend school in their regular classroom setting and should be considered eligible for all rights, privileges, and services provided by law and District policy.
5. Decisions regarding the type of educational setting appropriate for suspected or diagnosed HIV-infected students will be made on an individual basis and will be based, whenever possible, on an objective assessment by the health care team or M-Team or the behavior, neurological development, and physical condition of each affected student and of that student's expected type of interaction with others in that setting.
6. If it is determined that an HIV-infected student endangers the health of students or staff or poses a risk of significantly exposing students or staff to HIV--for example, if the student lacks toilet training, has open sores that cannot be covered, or demonstrates behavior such as biting that could result in direct inoculation of potentially infected body fluids into the bloodstream of another--the student may be placed in a more restricted setting. If homebound instruction is necessary, the homebound tutor will be advised regarding the standard procedures to be followed to prevent transmission of communicable diseases through exchange of body fluids.
7. HIV-infected students may be immunodeficient and their health may therefore be threatened when other communicable diseases are present in the school environment. For each student known to be HIV-infected, the nurse serving the school will notify the student and/or guardian when such communicable diseases occur in the school. Upon the recommendation of the nurse serving the school, students who may be exposed to a significant health risk because of their own immunodeficiencies may be excused from school attendance by the Principal, upon request, until such time as the risk has abated.