

## Policy 3417

### Students

#### Contagious or Infectious Diseases

The District is required to provide educational services to all school age children who reside within its boundaries. Attendance at school may be denied to any child diagnosed as having a contagious or infectious disease that could make the child's attendance harmful to the welfare of other students. In the instance of diseases causing suppressed immunity, attendance may be denied to a child with suppressed immunity in order to protect the welfare of the child with suppressed immunity when others in the school have an infectious disease which, although not normally life threatening, could be life threatening to the child with suppressed immunity.

The Board recognizes that communicable diseases that may afflict students range from common childhood diseases, acute and short-term in nature, to chronic, life-threatening diseases. The District shall rely on the advice of the public health and medical communities in assessing the risk of transmission of various communicable diseases to determine how best to protect the health of both students and staff.

Management of common communicable diseases will be in accordance with Idaho Department of Health and Welfare guidelines and communicable diseases control rules. A student who exhibits symptoms of a communicable disease that is readily transmitted in the school setting may be temporarily excluded from school attendance.

Students who complain of illness at school may be referred to the school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board and may be sent home as soon as the parent or person designated on the student's emergency medical authorization form has been notified.

The District reserves the right to require a statement from the student's primary care provider authorizing the student's return to school. In all proceedings related to this policy, the District shall respect the student's right to privacy.

When information is received by a staff member or volunteer that a student is afflicted with a serious communicable disease, the staff member or volunteer shall promptly notify the school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board to determine appropriate measures to protect student and staff health and safety. The school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board, after consultation with and on the advice of public health officials, shall determine which additional staff members, if any, have a need to know of the affected student's condition.

Only those persons with direct responsibility for the care of the student or for determining appropriate educational accommodation will be informed of the specific nature of the condition, if it is determined there is a need for such individuals to know this information.

Parents of other children attending the school may be notified that their child has been exposed to a communicable disease without identifying the particular student who has the disease.

#### Pediculosis (Head Lice)

The District's head lice management program should emphasize the correct diagnosis and treatment of head lice in order to minimize disruption of the educational process and to reduce the number of student absences resulting from infestation. In consultation with the school nurse, the Superintendent or designee may establish a routine screening program to help prevent the spread of head lice.

School employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse or designee as soon as possible. The nurse or designee shall examine the student, other students who are siblings of the affected student or members of the same household, and those students who have been in close contact with the infected person. If a student is found with live head lice, he/she shall be excluded from attendance. The parent/guardian of an excluded student shall receive information about recommended treatment procedures and sources of further information. The student shall be allowed to return to school when no live lice are present as determined by the nurse or designee.

The principal and school nurse shall work with the parents/guardians of any student who has been deemed to be a chronic head lice case in order to help minimize the student's absences from school. In consultation with the school nurse, the principal may also send information about head lice home to all parents/guardians of the students in that class.

Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice.

Adoption:      First Reading:      March 2013      Adopted