

STUDENT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Students who are afflicted with a communicable contagious, or infectious disease and students who are infected with communicable parasites or who may transmit such a disease or parasite may be excluded from school attendance.

The Board recognizes the need and right of all children to receive a free. The Board further recognizes its responsibility to provide a healthy environment for all students and school employees.

A determination of whether an infected students be excluded from the classroom or school activities shall be made on a case-by-case basis, under the direction of the Superintendent and the health nurse together with such other health care professionals they deem useful in the circumstance.

In situations where the decision requires additional expertise and knowledge, the Superintendent will call on an advisory committee for assistance in the decision making.

The advisory committee may be composed of:

- 1) A representative from the State Health Dept.
- 2) The student's physician;
- 3) The student's parents or guardian(s)
- 4) The school principal or designee;
- 5) The school health service's supervisor;
- 6) The superintendent or designee; and
- 7) An appropriate level teacher(s).

In making the determination, the advisory committee may consider;

- 1) The behavior, developmental level, and medical condition of the student;
- 2) The expected type(s) of interaction with others in the school setting;
- 3) The impact on both the infected student and others in to that setting;
- 4) The South Dakota Department of Health guidelines and policies; and
- 5) The recommendation of the County Health Officer, which may be controlling.

The advisory committee may officially request assistance from the South Dakota Department of Health.

If it is determined that the student will not be permitted to attend classes or participate in school activities, arrangements will be made to provide an alternate educational program. The program may provide for electronic participation in classes. If that requires personal contact between student and school employees, only trained volunteer employees shall be utilized.

Public information will not be revealed about the student who may be infected. If the student is permitted to remain in the school setting the following procedure will be followed:

Information will be provided, as appropriate to school employees who have regular contact with the student as to the student's medical condition and other factors needed for consideration in carrying out job responsibilities.

Health guidelines for school attendance are established and interpreted within the context of the case. The guidelines are not inclusive but are available to be used as a resource. School personnel will refer to health professionals for specific judgments in interpreting the guidelines.

Appropriate handling of blood and body fluids, hand washing after contamination, food preparation and hygiene care performed in work areas, maintenance cleaning and other personal hygienic measures are part of creating a healthy and safe environment.

Specific health concerns may require the advisory committee to make a determination on school attendance or participation in school activities.

Adoption Date: August 12, 1996

Reviewed _____

Amended 2014