



October 18, 2016

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Approval of the Revisions to Communicable Disease Policy.

Recommendation: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Communicable Disease Policy.

This policy is a first reading of the revisions to this policy.

Description: These revisions to the Communicable Disease Policy are being presented to align the policy with the current practices of the school district and the Student Health Services in accordance with state and federal law.

Supporting Data: Redline of Educational Services to Students When Excluded for Infectious Diseases Policy formerly known as the Communicable Disease Policy

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth N. Salim, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**COMMUNICABLE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO STUDENTS  
WHEN EXCLUDED FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

The school district is required to provide educational services to all school age children who reside within its boundaries. By law, however, admission to school may be denied to any child diagnosed as having an infectious disease whereby attendance could be harmful to the welfare of other students and staff, subject to the school district's responsibilities to ~~handicapped~~ children with disabilities under the law.

~~The School Committee recognizes that communicable diseases which may afflict students range from common childhood diseases, acute and short-term in nature, to chronic, life-threatening diseases such as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).~~

Management of common communicableinfectious diseases shall be in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Health guidelines and Cambridge Public Health Department infectious disease control guidelines. In situations when one or more cases of a vaccine-preventable or any other infectious disease are present in a school, all susceptible individuals, including those with medical or religious exemptions, are, in accordance with applicable Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations, subject to exclusion. A student who exhibits symptoms of an communicableinfectious disease may be temporarily excluded from school attendance. The school district reserves the right to require a physician's statement or Public Health Official's statement authorizing the student's return to school.

The educational placement of a student who is medically diagnosed as having an life-threatening communicableinfectious disease shall be determined on an individual basis in accordance with this policy and state regulations regarding the provision of educational services in home and in the hospital accompanying administrative procedures. Decisions about the proper educational placement shall be based on the student's behavior, neurological development, and physical condition; the expected type of interaction with others in school setting; and the susceptibility to other diseases and the likelihood of presenting risks to others and in collaboration with the school nurse, a student health care plan will be developed. A regular review of the placement decision shall be conducted to assess changes in the student's physical condition, or based on new information or research that may warrant a change in a student's placement.

In the event a student with an life-threatening communicableinfectious -disease qualifies for special education and related services ~~as a handicapped child~~ under state and federal law, the procedures for determining the appropriate educational placement in the least restrictive environment shall apply be used in lieu of the procedures designated above.

Neither this policy nor the placement of a student in any particular program shall preclude the administration from taking any temporary actions including removal of a student from the classroom as deemed necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the student, staff, and others.

In all proceedings related to this policy, the school district shall respect the student's right to privacy. Only those persons with a direct need to know shall be informed of the specific nature of the student's condition in accordance with the applicable provisions of federal and state law. The determination of those who need to know shall be made by the Superintendent in consultation with School Health Services.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L.c. 71, §55

| Adopted: *June 5, 2001*