

COMMUNICABLE/INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Code **JLCC-R** Issued **6/05**

Head lice (Pediculosis)

If a teacher suspects a child of having head lice, he/she will notify the school nurse or principal's designee. If the student has an active infestation, the school nurse or designee will notify the parent/legal guardian by telephone or in writing with recommendations for treatment procedures.

The school will inform parents/legal guardians, teachers, school nurses and administrators of the following.

- recommendations for treatment procedures
- documentation required for readmission to school
- availability of vouchers or products through county health departments for eligible families

Readmission to school

The district prohibits a student who is sent home with head lice from returning to school until he/she meets the following conditions

- the student shows evidence of treatment as determined by the school
- the student passes a physical screening by the school nurse or principal's designee that shows the absence of head lice

At no time will a student be allowed to return to school without proof of treatment and a screening.

Other communicable diseases

Students with communicable diseases, including acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, will be permitted to attend school in accordance with this rule.

Except with respect to students with AIDS or HIV infection, or as otherwise provided by law, parents/legal guardians should inform the principal of the school when their child or ward is suffering from a communicable disease. If a student is suffering from AIDS or HIV infection, the district will be notified by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). Once notice is received from the parent/legal guardian or DHEC, the superintendent or his/her designee will ensure that a committee consisting of the parent/legal guardian, personal physician, appropriate public health professionals and appropriate school district personnel is formed to monitor and/or evaluate the student's health status.

In the case of a student with AIDS or HIV infection, the student's primary health provider is responsible for conducting an ongoing medical evaluation of the student to evaluate any changes in the student's health. The committee periodically will monitor the health status of the student. Evaluation of the student's potential for transmitting the HIV should be made by the health professionals evaluating the student's status. Information shared during the monitoring process is strictly confidential.

With respect to other reported communicable diseases, the committee will review each case individually to determine the means of transmittal, how long the student will be infectious, to what degree the student's presence poses a risk to other students and to staff and the probability of transmittal.

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Generally, students with AIDS/HIV infection should be permitted to attend school and school activities without restriction, provided their health status so allows. If it is determined, based on sound medical evidence and in accordance with the procedures set forth in this administrative rule, that any student with any communicable disease poses a significant risk to the health and safety of other persons in his/her current placement, a determination will be made whether an appropriate adjustment can be made to the student's school program to eliminate the risk. If such adjustments are not possible, an alternative education program should be offered. This placement will continue, with periodic evaluations, until the risk to others has been abated. The board reserves the right to require a satisfactory certificate from one or more licensed physicians that the student's attendance is no longer a risk to others.

If it is determined that the student has limited strength, vitality or alertness due to a chronic or acute health problem that adversely affects the student's educational performance, the committee will refer the student for possible identification and placement as a student with special needs.

Information regarding the medical condition of students is confidential and should be disseminated strictly on a need-to-know basis. Accordingly, information should be provided only to those who need the information to protect the health and safety of the student, other students and staff, and only to the extent necessary to accomplish that end. All personnel informed of the condition of the student are to be instructed that this information is to be held in the strictest confidence.

In order to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, DHEC or Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for necessary health and safety precautions, including handling of blood and bodily fluids will be distributed by the administration from time to time and should be followed by all school employees and students.

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