

POLICY

THE BOARD OF HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION BELIEVES THAT GOOD HEALTH HAS A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON STUDENT LEARNING. THE BOARD ALSO BELIEVES THAT SCHOOLS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE AWARENESS AND REPORTING OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND IN WORKING WITH THE HEALTH AUTHORITY IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES. THE BOARD IS COMMITTED TO THE HUMANE, RESPONSIBLE AND COMPASSIONATE TREATMENT OF INFECTED STUDENTS, AS WELL AS BALANCED AND INFORMED CONSIDERATION OF ACTIONS NECESSARY FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT.

GUIDELINES

1. The Alberta Public Health Act requires that individuals notify the medical officer of health/health professional of the regional authority if they have reason to believe a person under their care, custody or supervision is infected with a communicable disease as specified in the regulations. This requirement applies to teachers and school administrators.
2. Staff members are responsible for being familiar with the visible symptoms of communicable diseases which must be reported to the medical officer of health.

REGULATIONS

1. A list of communicable diseases that must be reported to the medical officer of health and their visible signs and symptoms shall be posted on the Horizon School Division website.
2. All staff and contract workers shall co-operate with public health officials in preventing the spread of communicable diseases.
3. Students with communicable diseases shall be managed in accordance with the direction and opinion provided by the regional health authority's appropriate health official and the Public Health Act. In the case of HIV/AIDS, students shall be allowed to attend school programs in an unrestricted setting unless, in the opinion of the regional health authority's appropriate health official, there are special circumstances which necessitate restriction.
4. Decisions regarding confidentiality, the type of care, program, and educational setting for students infected with a communicable disease shall be made by the principal in consultation with the parent(s) and medical personnel, and based on the following considerations:
 - 4.1 the behavior, neurological development and physical condition of the student;
 - 4.2 the expected type of interaction with others including all school sponsored events and activities;
 - 4.3 the risks and benefits to both the infected child and to others in the educational setting;
 - 4.4 disclosure of health information will be kept to a minimum and in accordance with the Public Health Act; communication of the condition shall be based on the need to assure proper care of the child as well as appropriate action in situations where the potential for transmission may occur (e.g. bleeding injury).
5. Persons involved in the care and education of students infected by a communicable disease shall respect the student's right to privacy.