

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

These procedures are in place for school system teachers and administrators who identify or suspect communicable disease in the school or workplace.

Teachers and administrators shall report suspected cases of communicable disease to their immediate supervisors who will channel the concern to the Superintendent at which time the Superintendent may require a medical evaluation of the student or employee and can convene the Health Review Team if needed.

Most communicable diseases which occur in the school setting are short-term illnesses which require 1-5 days exclusion from school. In these cases, it is practical and reasonable for the principal or his/her designee and/or the school nurse to make the initial decision to exclude a child from school attendance. In cases of exclusion, the parents shall be called. In situations in which the child's private physician has directed that the child stay home for a longer period of time, and this directive is uncontested, there is no additional requirement other than the provision of alternative education, if appropriate.

The remainder of these administrative regulations pertain to cases in which there may be prolonged or recurring exclusion from the school setting due to a student or employee's having a long-term disease which has the potential for communicability.

If it is the judgment of the local Health Department, after consultation with private medical doctors and/or other public health authorities, that a communicable disease is present in the King George County Public Schools and that there is significant risk of transmission thereof or that the risk of transmission is unknown, the Health Department shall advise the Superintendent of Schools who will make the decision to exclude the student or employee from the school setting and will convene the Health Review Team if needed.

The Superintendent shall establish a Health Review Team consisting of a representative of the King George Health Department, a private physician, a representative of the King George County Public Schools, designated by the Superintendent, who will serve as the chairperson and any other persons the Superintendent deems necessary. The Superintendent shall convene the Health Review Team whenever the decision to exclude a student or employee with a communicable disease is questionable or contested. Each case shall be handled individually.

The Health Review Team shall review all pertinent information and make its recommendations to the Superintendent. Persons called on for information to this panel may include, but not be limited to, the attending physician, the principal, teacher(s), and parents of the student. In the case of an employee, contributing persons include the attending physician and the immediate supervisor. The Health Review Team should be established immediately upon approval of these regulations.

Employees with communicable diseases and parents of students with communicable diseases shall be notified of the five-day time limit for submitting any medical evaluations to the Health Review Team. Medical evaluation(s) submitted to the Team will be considered before the Team makes its recommendation on a case. The Team shall meet, review information, and make recommendations to the Superintendent within 5 school days following exclusion of the affected student or employee. The recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, a timetable on future school presence.

Within five (5) school days following his/her receipt of the Team's report, the Superintendent shall notify the parents of the affected student, or notify the affected employee of his/her decision to re-admit or to continue to exclude the student from school attendance or the employee from work in the school setting.

Confidentiality and the right to privacy regarding the affected student or employee shall be maintained by all persons involved. Information regarding students or school employees suspected of or diagnosed as having a communicable disease shall be released only through the office of the Superintendent of Schools.

The King George County School System shall institute preventive measures to control communicable disease transference. Such preventive measures shall include the education of employees and students about communicable diseases and the methods of reducing the risks of transmission. Employees shall be taught the proper methods of cleaning up spilled body fluids, collecting trash and disinfecting areas which might be sources of contamination.

The Superintendent shall advise the School Board to regularly re-examine its policy and regulations on communicable diseases as new knowledge regarding communicable diseases becomes known.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH
HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS

The spread of HIV infection in schools has not been documented, and fear of its communicability must be allayed by appropriate education of all school personnel. Participation in school provides a sense of normalcy for children and adolescents with HIV infection and offers opportunities for socialization that are important to their development. School attendance promotes a sense of belonging and reduces feeling of isolation and rejection.

POLICY STATEMENT

The King George County Public School Division will work cooperatively with the King George Health Department to ensure compliance with Virginia Code 22.1-271.3 for school attendance of children infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

All persons privileged with any medical information about HIV infected students shall be required to treat all proceedings, discussions, and documents as confidential information. Individuals will be informed of the situation on a "Need To Know" basis with written consent of the parent/guardian or, as provided for under a Court Order from a Court where jurisdiction has been established. If disclosure occurs pursuant to a written release or Court Order, the information shall only be released to those listed on such a consent form or Court Order, for the time period specified and only for the purpose stated on the consent form or Court Order.

Students are expected to be in compliance with an immunization schedule (Article 2, Code of Virginia 22.1-271.2); however, some required immunizations may be harmful to the health of the student who is HIV infected or has AIDS. Students who are HIV infected or have AIDS may get an exemption from complying with the requirements (Virginia Code 22.1-27.2C). School personnel will cooperate with public health personnel in completing and coordinating immunization data, exemptions and exclusions, including immunization forms.

Mandatory screening for HIV infection is not warranted as a condition for school entry. Upon learning a student is HIV infected or has AIDS, the Superintendent will consult with the individual's family and physician or health official from the local health department to determine whether the student is well enough to stay in school. Since it is known that HIV is not transmitted through casual contact, any student who is HIV infected will continue education in a regular classroom assignment unless his/her health status interferes significantly with performance. If a change in the student's program is necessary, the Superintendent or designee, family, and physician or health official will develop an individual plan, which is medically, legally and educationally sound. If the

HIV student is receiving special education services, the services will be in agreement with established policies.

Parents/guardians may appeal decisions for restriction or exclusion as determined by the school division's established procedures.

Universal precautions for handling blood will be implemented within the school setting and on buses. To ensure implementation of the proper standard operating procedures for all body fluids, the guidelines from the Virginia Department of Health will be followed. In-Service training will be provided to all school personnel. Training will include but not be limited to local division policies, etiology, transmission, prevention and risk reduction of HIV; standard operating procedures for handling blood and body fluids; and community resources available for information and referral. Periodic updates will be supplied through In-Service training or memoranda.

Comprehensive and age-appropriate instruction on the principal modes by which HIV is spread and the best methods for the reduction and prevention of AIDS are required to encourage the support and protection of the HIV infected student. To enhance school attendance, the school division will collaborate with public and private organizations in the provision of support services to HIV infected students.

General notification to parents will be given when there is a suspected or actual outbreak of measles, varicella or any contagious/communicable disease within the school setting.

The number of personnel aware of the student's condition shall be kept at the minimum needed to assure such confidentiality. Student information about HIV infection will be shared ONLY with the written consent of the parent(s)/guardian(s). Persons involved in the implementation and monitoring of this policy shall respect the student's right to privacy, including the maintenance of confidential records.

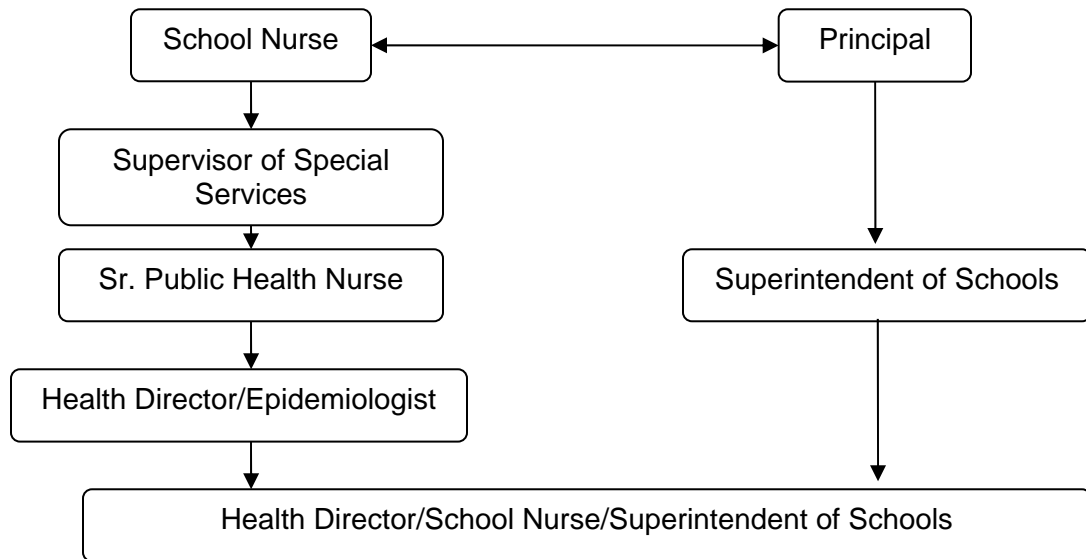
ACTION PLAN FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

If a student has been diagnosed with a reportable communicable disease, the following action plan should be utilized.

1. The school nurse should discuss the situation with the principal of the school and Supervisor of Special Services.

- Facts regarding the disease can be downloaded from the CDC website (www.cdc.gov) and shared with the principal. The other resource used by the Virginia Department of Health and SCPS is The Control of Communicable Diseases of Man.
 - Most communicable diseases must be confirmed through clinical assessment and lab work before any interventions or recommendations from the Health Department can be made. Obtain clinical or laboratory confirmation if possible.
2. The school nurse would then advise the Supervisor of Special Services and the Principal of the known facts.
 3. The School Nurse would contact the County Health Department Nurse Supervisor, who will contact Health Director and the Regional Epidemiologist, if necessary. Health Director and the epidemiologist would notify the Superintendent of Schools and School Nurse of any appropriate interventions.
- Parent letters may or may not be advised according to the situation. Sample letters are included should the principal choose to send out notification after approval of the Central Office and Health Director.

CHAIN OF COMMAND



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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, section 22.1-271.3, 22.1-272,
32.1-46

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