

POLICY IHCF – Communicable Diseases

Student health is first and foremost. If a student is excluded from school activities, it will be in accordance with the guidelines established by Alberta Health.

PURPOSE

To support the school community and foster a positive and healthy school environment where everyone is treated with equality, dignity and respect.

BACKGROUND

Communicable diseases are diseases which can be spread to others. There are two types – Viral and Bacterial. Some are more serious than others. Communicable diseases can be spread in different ways depending on the particular disease (direct contact, airborne, water/food, blood, body fluids). Many are reportable to the local Public Health Nurse/Medical Officer of Health.

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

1. If a student has a common disease, follow the Alberta Health Services Common Diseases Summary. (See [Exhibit 1](#).)
2. Notifiable diseases are monitored and controlled by the Communicable Disease Regulation under the *Public Health Act* (see Alberta Health Services' Communicable Diseases Reference List [Exhibit 2](#)).
3. If a Principal is advised of a confirmed case of a communicable disease (diagnosed by a physician), then the following protocol will be followed for issuing any advisories to the community or to families of students who are identified as being medically fragile. This protocol also applies to playschools and daycares in the school.
 - a) Principal receives confirmation from a physician.
 - b) Principal forwards confirmation to the Superintendent.
 - c) Superintendent confirms with Medical Officer of Health (MOH).
 - d) MOH issues formal health advisory.
 - e) Superintendent distributes advisory to schools.
4. If a student is ill with fever, rash, cough, vomiting or diarrhea or is generally unwell:
 - a) the student will be isolated from the general student population; and
 - b) the Principal shall inform the parents and request that the student be excluded from school until he/she has consulted with a health care provider or the student is better.
5. The identity of a student infected with a communicable disease shall be protected.
6. Everyone (volunteers, students and staff) must use hygienic practices in handling blood and body fluids (see [Exhibit 3](#)).
7. The Policy Review Committee shall review this policy annually to reflect new medical information as it becomes available.

REFERENCES

Cross References:

[Exhibit 1- Common Disease Summary](#)

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/phys/nor/if-hp-phys-moh-nz-school-common-diseases.pdf>

[Exhibit 2 - Communicable Diseases Reference List](#)

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/29cb6f0c-a1fd-4421-999b-9fa7fe23d44e/resource/bcfcedb9-08f9-4db6-89c2-c3886e7ed5e3/download/hlth-moh-designate-reporting-reference-2022-12.pdf>

[Exhibit 3 – Cleaning and Disinfecting](#)

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/phys/nor/if-hp-phys-moh-nz-school-cleaning-disinfecting.pdf>

[Exhibit 4 – Guide for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Schools; Includes Respiratory, Gastrointestinal and Rash Illnesses](#)

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/flu/hi-flu-schools.pdf>

**Alberta Health Service Web Site: Medical Officer of Health – North Zone –
Outbreak Management Resources – School (K-12)**

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/medstaff/Page17358.aspx>

Legal Reference:

[Public Health Act](#)

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Next Review: Annual