Policy

**COMMUNICABLE/INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**AND CONDITIONS**

*Code* **JLCC** *Issued* **DRAFT/19**

The board is committed to implementing the provisions of South Carolina law and regulation regarding communicable and infectious diseases and conditions. Teachers and other staff members will be alert to signs of illness and communicable diseases/conditions and refer students who show such symptoms to the school nurse.

The district will utilize the most recent South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control’s *Official School and Childcare Exclusion List of Contagious and Communicable Diseases* to determine when exclusion from school is appropriate. Students excluded pursuant to these guidelines will also be excluded from school activities.

**Confidentiality**

Information will not be revealed to the public about a student who may have a communicable or infectious disease or condition. Appropriate information will be provided to staff and/or the public if the potential for communicability is a factor.

**HIV Infection**

Evidence shows that the risk of transmitting human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is extremely low in school settings when appropriate guidelines are followed. The presence of a person living with HIV infection or diagnosed with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) poses no significant risk to others in school, daycare, or school athletic settings.

*School attendance*

A student with HIV infection has the same right to attend school and receive services as any other student and will be subject to the same rules and policies. HIV infection will not factor into decisions concerning class assignments, privileges, or participation in any school-sponsored activity.

School authorities will determine the educational placement of a student known to be infected with HIV on a case-by-case basis by following established policies and procedures for students with chronic health problems or students with disabilities. Decision makers must consult with the student’s physician and parent/legal guardian; respect the student and family’s privacy rights; and reassess the placement if there is a change in the student’s need for accommodations or services. School staff members will always strive to maintain a respectful school climate and not allow physical or verbal harassment of any individual or group by another individual or group. This includes taunts directed against a person living with HIV infection, a person perceived as having HIV infection, or a person associated with someone with HIV infection.

*Student athletics*

The privilege of participating in physical education classes, athletic programs, competitive sports, and recess is not conditional on a person’s HIV status. School authorities will make reasonable accommodations to allow students living with HIV infection to participate in school-sponsored physical activities.

All staff members must consistently adhere to infection control guidelines in locker rooms and all play and athletic settings. Handbooks will reflect these guidelines. First aid kits that include personal protective equipment for preventing exposure to bloodborne pathogens must be on hand at every athletic event.

Physical education teachers and athletic program staff members should complete an approved first aid and injury prevention course or training that includes implementation of infection control guidelines. Student orientation about safety on the playing field will include guidelines for avoiding HIV infection.

*Related services*

Students will have access to voluntary, confidential, and age and developmentally appropriate counseling about matters related to HIV infection. School administrators will maintain confidential linkage and referral mechanisms to facilitate voluntary student access to appropriate HIV counseling and testing programs and to other HIV-related services as needed. Public information about resources in the community will be kept available for voluntary student use.

*Privacy*

State regulations require that the superintendent, school nurse, or other health professional who receives notice of a minor’s human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection must keep the information strictly confidential. Violation of the confidentiality requirements is a violation of state law.

Students or staff members are not required to disclose HIV infection status to anyone in the education system. HIV antibody testing is not required for any purpose.

Every staff member has a duty to treat as highly confidential any knowledge or speculation concerning the HIV status of a student or other staff member. Violation of medical privacy is cause for disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, and/or personal liability for a civil suit.

No information regarding a person’s HIV status will be divulged to any individual or organization without a court order or the informed, written, signed, and dated consent of the person with the HIV infection (or the parent/legal guardian of a legal minor). The written consent must specify the name of the recipient of the information and the reason for disclosure.

All health records, notes, and other documents that reference a person’s HIV status will be kept under lock and key. Access to these confidential records is limited to those individuals named in written permission from the person (or parent/legal guardian) and to emergency medical personnel. Information regarding HIV status will not be added to a student’s permanent educational record.

**Head Lice (Pediculosis)**

If a staff member 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, school personnel 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

# *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.

**Bed Bugs**

While a bed bug infestation is highly unlikely to occur in a school environment, the board desires to remain proactive to prevent such infestation and to stop bed bugs from being transmitted into the schools of the district.

If a staff member suspects a child may have bed bug bites or otherwise observes the presence of bed bugs on a student or his/her belongings, the staff member will notify the school nurse or principal’s designee. Upon inspection, if the school nurse or principal’s designee observes a bed bug on the student or student’s possessions, he/she will inform the principal who will arrange for a licensed pest management professional to complete an inspection of the student’s classroom(s) to determine if bed bugs are present in the classroom area.

If a pest control inspection is unable to be conducted within twenty-four (24) hours, district custodial staff will vacuum the student’s classroom(s) using a new vacuum cleaner bag and dispose of it in an outdoor receptacle immediately upon completion. If the vacuum does not have a bag, the contents of the vacuum should be placed in a sealed plastic bag and placed in an outdoor receptacle immediately upon completion. The vacuum will then be thoroughly cleaned.

The principal will determine if the classroom(s) should be occupied by students and/or staff until the licensed pest management inspection is conducted. In the event the inspection determines bed bugs are present in the school, the affected areas will be treated by a licensed pest management professional.

The school nurse or principal’s designee will contact the parent/legal guardian of any student who is found to have a live bed bug on their person or their belongings to arrange for the child to be brought a change of clothes. Any personal belongings will be sent home with the parent/legal guardian, and the parent/legal guardian will be asked to inspect any items the student brings in the future. Subsequent checks for signs of bed bugs may be conducted as determined to be necessary by the school nurse or the principal’s designee.

Any student suspected of having a bed bug infestation will be treated with discretion and dignity and will not be excluded or stigmatized in any way. The principal or his/her designee will work sensitively with parents/legal guardians of any student living in an infested home to identify the strategies necessary for preventing the further spread of bed bugs.

*Notification of other parents*

The principal, in consultation with the school nurse, will determine if parents/legal guardians of other students should be informed of the presence of bed bugs in an area where these students may have been during the day while in the school environment. Parents/Legal guardians will not be notified if bed bugs are merely found on an individual student or on an individual student’s belongings.

Cf. EBBA, GBGA, IHAM, JRA

Adopted ^

Legal References:

A. Code of Federal Regulations, as amended:

1. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, CFR 1910.134 - Respiratory protection.
2. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, CFR 1910.1030 - Bloodborne pathogens.

B. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 44-29-135 - Confidentiality of sexually transmitted disease records.
2. Section 44-29-195 - Requirements for returning to school after having head lice.
3. Section 44-29-200 - Attendance of teachers or students with contagious or infectious disease may be prohibited.
4. Section 59-10-220 - Adoption and notification of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations on universal precautions for bloodborne disease exposure.

C. S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control Regulations:

1. R61-20 - Communicable diseases.

2. R61-21 - Sexually transmitted diseases.

D. Other:

1. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, *Official School and Childcare Exclusion List of Contagious and Communicable Diseases*.