

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES - STUDENTS

1.0 The District will utilize the advice of the Colorado State Department of Health, Tri-County Health Department and the medical community in order to respond in a prudent manner to any student being diagnosed with a communicable disease and/or life threatening medical condition. Appropriate action, including exclusion from school, shall be determined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy and applicable law.

2.0 District staff shall follow the procedures below in responding to students with communicable diseases:

2.1 Category 1 Communicable Diseases (acute or short term). Examples Include But Are Not Limited To Head Lice And Scabies.

2.2 In both Category I and Category II, the child may be temporarily excluded from school if the illness poses a threat to the health of others. Parents shall be notified of the conditions under which the child will be readmitted to school. Conditions should be approved by Tri-County Health Department before child is readmitted to school.

2.3 Students with head lice have a category I communicable disease. Staff shall follow this procedure in addressing students suspected of having head lice:

2.3.1 The school health aide (or other staff member designated by the building administrator) examines the child's hair and follows the written protocol established by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's current publication Infectious Disease Guidelines In School Settings, Guidelines For School Nurses And Personnel.

2.3.2 Students with an active infestation (live lice or live nits) shall be excluded from the end of the school day until completion of the first treatment. In such cases, the health aide or building administrator makes a

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confidential call to a parent/guardian stating the reason for the call (live lice/live nits) and requesting that lice treatment be administered to the child before readmission to school.

2.3.3 The health aide (or other designated school staff member) discusses with the parent/guardian the need for treatment of the child's condition and may:

- Show the parent/guardian the lice/nits.
- Give the parent/guardian handouts while pointing out important treatment measures and explaining that if treatment is applied as directed, the child may return to school following the treatment.
- Offer to check out a video regarding treatment of lice.
- Emphasize that the complete treatment involves combing out dead nits after applying the lice shampoo.

2.3.4 After the student has received the appropriate treatment for head lice at home, the student should report to the school's health office upon arrival at school. The health aide (or other designated school staff member) checks the child's hair for the presence of live lice/live nits and communicates any concerns to the parent/guardian.

2.3.5 The health aide (or other designated school staff member) rechecks the child after a week, or sooner if there is a concern (e.g., many casings, nits or live lice).

2.3.6 If the parent(s)/guardian(s) keeps the child out of school (or the child is unable to attend school because of the parent's/guardian's failure to treat the child appropriately) and the school absence becomes excessive, the usual building procedures are implemented.

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2.4 If two or more students in a classroom have an active lice infestation, the building principal and health aide shall confer to discuss whether written notice of the outbreak and of preventative measures should be provided to the parents of other students in the classroom or school.

3.0 Category II Communicable Diseases (chronic and potentially life threatening). Examples Include But Are Not Limited To Hepatitis B, C and HIV.

3.1 Information received from the student's parents/guardian, the student, or his/her physician regarding the student's medical condition will be reported to the District Section 504/Health Services Coordinator, who will be the school official responsible for coordinating the procedures for students under Category II. The coordinator shall confer with representatives from the medical community, the student's physician, and appropriate school officials to determine the risks posed to others by the student's health condition.

3.2 The District Section 504/Health Services Coordinator or his/her designee will advise the Superintendent of the degree of risk of transmission of the communicable disease to others as well as to the student's safety in the school setting. Risk assessment will be based on the student's behavior, physical condition, expected interactions with others, and such other relevant factors. In each case, risks and benefits to both the infected student and to others in the school setting will be weighed. If the student is being considered under special education procedures, the information will be used during the assessment and staffing process.

3.3 If it is suspected that the medical condition limits the student's ability to receive reasonable benefit from ordinary education, the procedures for referral for special education and/or Section 504 eligibility will be initiated. These

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procedures will follow the local Comprehensive Plan for Special Education in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

4.0 Determining Degree of Risk

4.1 The District Section 504/Health Services Coordinator or his/her designee will advise the Superintendent of the degree of risk of transmission of the communicable disease to others as well as to the student's safety in the school setting. Risk assessment will be based on the student's behavior, physical condition, expected interactions with others, and such other relevant factors. In each case, risks and benefits to both the infected student and to others in the school setting will be weighed. If the student is being considered under special education procedures, the information will be used during the assessment and staffing process.

5.0 Confidentiality

5.1 School district personnel shall share information regarding a student's communicable disease only with school staff who have a legitimate need to know the information and with third parties as authorized by the District's Section 504/Health Services Coordinator or District Legal Counsel. Staff members working directly with the child should be informed in writing of the child's condition, appropriate precautions, and confidentiality requirements.

6.0 Training

The District shall provide appropriate in-service programs, information and material to enable employees to be knowledgeable in working safely with students having a communicable disease, including universal precautions procedures.