

REGULATION ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: Policy JED/904.04
Responsible Office: DIVISION OF PUPIL SERVICES

Control of Communicable Disease

A. PURPOSE-

To establish general guidelines for the detection and disposition of communicable diseases.

B. GENERAL INFORMATION

In accordance with §18-201 of the Health General Article, Annotated Code of Maryland and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.06.01 the local school system (LSS) must work collaboratively with the local department of health (LDH) to control outbreaks of communicable diseases in the school setting. In the event of an outbreak, only the county health officer has the legal authority to exclude students and/or employees from school buildings.

C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

1. Any student suspected of having an acute communicable disease (i.e. measles, mumps, chicken pox) will be isolated in the health room and the following actions will occur:
 - a. The principal, school nurse or designee will notify parents and arrange for them to transport the student home;
 - b. Before readmission to school, the student must provide appropriate documentation of non-communicability of the condition which warranted exclusion.
2. The principal or designee will report to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health's Communicable Disease Office and the School Health Services Coordinator all suspected or diagnosed cases of reportable communicable diseases. A current list of reportable diseases is listed in COMAR 10.06.01.03.

3. When a principal or school nurse is informed of suspected or diagnosed case of HIV infection, the principal or school nurse will report this information to the School Health Services Program Coordinator or the Director of Pupil Services. This information must not be shared with anyone, including school staff, without permission from the School Health Services Program Coordinator.
4. Guidance for principals for sharing information regarding a communicable disease in their school with their individual school community will be coordinated by the Director of Pupil Services and the School Health Services Program Coordinator.

Public Information Officers from Anne Arundel County Public Schools and the Anne Arundel County Department of Health will be notified in order to provide appropriate support.

The physician Deputy Health Officer at the Department of Health and the Communicable Diseases Program will provide assistance to the school system public information office with medical information for verbal and written communication for students, staff and parents.

Communications will be released by principals after review by the public information offices from both agencies.

5. All staff and volunteers must participate annually in a Bloodborne Pathogen inservice. The principal will review staff and volunteer attendance at the most recent annual Bloodborne Pathogen inservice and determine the need for additional inservice. If necessary, assistance should be requested from the School Health Services Program Coordinator.
6. Each school year the principal will remind all staff and volunteers to use universal precautions and assure that disposable gloves and disinfectant are available for all staff.
7. Community or media questions related to communicable diseases should be referred to the Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR STAFF

1. Any staff member suspected of having an undiagnosed acute communicable disease that could be transmitted in an educational setting will be instructed by the principal or designee to leave the school premises as soon as possible.
2. The employee will remain away from the assignment until a physician certifies that the employee is not infectious to others in an educational setting.
3. The principal, school nurse or designee will report all suspected or diagnosed cases of reportable communicable diseases to the Anne Arundel County

Department of Health communicable disease office, the School Health Services Program Coordinator and the Anne Arundel County Public Schools Director of Pupil Services.

4. When a principal or school nurse is informed of a suspected or diagnosed case of HIV infection, the principal or school nurse will report this information to the School Health Services Program Coordinator or the Director of Pupil Services. This information must not be shared with anyone, including school staff, without permission from the School Health Services Program Coordinator.
5. Guidance for principals for sharing information regarding a communicable disease in their school with their individual school community will be coordinated by the Director of Pupil Services and the School Health Services Program Coordinator.

Public Information Officers from Anne Arundel County Public Schools and the Anne Arundel County Department of Health will be notified in order to provide appropriate support.

The physician Deputy Health Officer at the Department of Health and the Communicable Diseases Program will provide assistance to the school system public information office with medical information for verbal and written communication for students, staff and parents.

Communications will be released by principals after review by the public information offices from both agencies.

6. All staff and volunteers must participate in a Bloodborne Pathogen inservice annually. The principal will review staff and volunteer attendance at the most recent annual Bloodborne Pathogen inservice and determine the need for additional inservice. If necessary, assistance should be requested from the School Health Services Program Coordinator.
7. Each year the principal will remind all staff and volunteers to use universal precautions and assure that disposable gloves and disinfectant are available for all staff.
8. Community or media questions regarding communicable diseases should be referred to the Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services. -

E. REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

A listing of the most current reportable diseases and conditions of public health importance can be found in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.06.01.03.

F. REPORTING OF ABSENTEEISM

Schools are requested to report absenteeism in excess of 10% of the school population in elementary schools or in excess of 15% in secondary schools. These reports should be called in to the Director of Pupil Services and the School Health Services Program Coordinator.

G. INFORMATION ON NUISANCE CONDITIONS

Information and assistance for the control and treatment of nuisance conditions such as head lice and scabies can be provided by the school nurse.

H. IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Information regarding current immunization requirements for school enrollment can be provided by the school nurse or by the Immunization Program at the Department of Health.

*Regulation History:**Developed by Superintendent 10/1/05.**Reviewed by Board of Education 12/7/05.**Issued 2/15/06.**Note Previous History:**Replaces Administrative Regulation 904.04, adopted 2/4/92.*