

Helena School District

STUDENTS

3417

Communicable Diseases

Note: For purposes of this policy, the term “communicable disease” refers to the diseases identified in 37.114.203, ARM, Reportable Diseases, with the exception of common colds and flu.

In all proceedings related to this policy, the District shall respect a student’s right to privacy. All applicable district policies and handbook provision governing confidentiality of student medical information remain in full effect.

Although the District is required to provide educational services to all school-age children who reside within its boundaries, it may deny attendance at school to any child diagnosed as having a communicable disease that could make a child’s attendance harmful to the welfare of other students. The District also may deny attendance to a child with suppressed immunity in order to protect the welfare of that child when others in a school have an infectious disease, which, although not normally life threatening, could be life threatening to a child with suppressed immunity.

The District shall provide soap and disposable towels or other hand-drying devices shall be available at all handwashing sinks. Common-use cloth towels are prohibited.

The Board recognizes that communicable diseases that may afflict students ranging from common childhood diseases, acute and short-term in nature, to chronic, life-threatening diseases such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. The District shall rely on advice of school nurses and the public health and medical communities in assessing the risk of transmission of various communicable diseases to determine how best to protect the health of both students and staff.

The District shall manage common communicable diseases in accordance with DPHHS guidelines and communicable diseases control rules. If a student develops symptoms of any reportable communicable or infectious illness as defined while at school, the responsible school officials shall do the following:

- (a) isolate the student immediately from other students or staff; and
- (b) inform the parent or guardian as soon as possible about the illness and request him or her to pick up the student.; and
- (c) consult with a school nurse, health care provider, other qualified medical professional, or the local county health authority to determine if report the case should be reported to the local health officer.

Students who express feelings of illness at school may be referred to a school nurse or other responsible

Policy History:

Adopted on: 2.8.2022

Reviewed on:

Revised on: