

STUDENT COMMUNICABLE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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By law, admission to a school may be denied to any student diagnosed as having a disease or carrying a disease-causing agent whereby his or her attendance could be harmful to the welfare of other students. This includes any disease that poses an unacceptable risk of communication to others. However, any decision to deny student admission shall be based upon reasonable medical judgment.

Influenza, common colds, respiratory infections, measles, active tuberculosis, and whooping cough (pertussis) are all readily transmissible in the school environment. Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), hepatitis B and hepatitis C are not readily transmissible in the school environment. The principal will notify the Aurora Public Schools health services coordinator or his/her designee, who will, where required by law, notify the appropriate county health department when a student is infected with a communicable disease.

In the event of a pandemic outbreak of illness, the APS Incident Response Team will assume command and control of school response.

School attendance is important to support optimal learning. However, the principal may temporarily exclude a student from school if he or she exhibits symptoms of a readily transmissible disease which poses a potential risk to the welfare of other students. If these conditions exist, the student's parent or guardian shall refrain from bringing that student to school until the risk of transmission in the school environment has passed. Decisions to exclude a student with a potentially contagious illness should be based on recommendations from a health care provider, the state or local public health agency, or the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's "Infectious Disease Guidelines for Schools."

Any information regarding a student's infection or suspected infection with a communicable disease, like all student health records, is confidential and shall be maintained in accordance with Policy JRA/JRC.

Standard safety and health practices appropriate for protecting against transmission of diseases shall be applied in circumstances where any student requires first aid, regardless of health status. Handling of body fluids and substances shall be accomplished in accordance with Regulation EBBA.

LEGAL REFS: 20 U.S.C. 1232g
 20 U.S.C. 1400 *et seq.*

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29 U.S.C. 794, Section 504

42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.*

C.R.S. 22-33-104(2)(a)C.R.S. 22-33-106(2)(b)

C.R.S. 24-72-204(3)(a)(I)

C.R.S. 25-4-1401 *et seq.*

State Board of Health Rules and Regulations 6 CCR-1009-01

CROSS REFS.: JKD/JKE, Suspension/Expulsion of Students

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Diseases that are readily transmissible in the school environment:

Standard safety and health practices appropriate for protecting against transmission of diseases shall be applied in circumstances where any student requires first aid, regardless of health status. Handling of body fluids and substances shall be accomplished in accordance with Regulation EBBA-R.

When a staff member or volunteer receives information that a student is afflicted with a serious or life-threatening disease which is readily transmissible, the staff member or volunteer shall promptly notify the school nurse, the coordinator of health services, or the principal to determine the appropriate measures to protect student and staff safety and health. The nurse and/or the principal shall inform any additional staff members who need to know of the affected student's condition in order to carry out the measures implemented to protect student and staff safety and health. The nurse or principal may take any necessary temporary actions (pending medical consultation), including removal from the classroom, which are deemed necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the student and others.

Diseases not readily transmissible in the school environment:

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and HIV Infection are examples of a disease not readily transmissible in the school environment.

Procedures:

1. When a staff member receives information that a student may be infected, the staff member or volunteer will immediately notify the principal. The staff member or volunteer shall not disclose information to anyone other than the principal, or establish a written record identifying the student by name.
2. The principal shall immediately notify the district's health services coordinator or his/her designee of the student's infection or suspected infection.
3. Without disclosing the identity of the infected individual(s), the health services coordinator or his/her designee may consult with the county health officer in order to obtain a list of appropriate health and support resources to provide to the infected individual, and in order to discuss any additional measures that are necessary to address the student's infection or suspected infection.

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4. The health services coordinator or his/her designee shall notify the principal of any necessary measures which shall be implemented at the school, and shall determine whether any additional persons have a need to know of the student's condition.

5. If it appears that a student's health problems are adversely affecting the student's educational performance, a special education referral shall be made in accordance with the district's comprehensive plan for special education. Information that a student is infected shall not be disclosed to staffing team members other than those determined by the superintendent (or designee), or by the coordinator of health services to have a need to know such information in order to meet the student's needs. Although a student's individualized educational program (IEP) may include goals, services, and supplementary aids needed to address the student's educational needs arising from medical problems, the fact of the student's infection shall not be recorded on the IEP. These precautions shall also be observed in the case of an infected student who is referred for special education assessment and staffing for reasons unrelated to the infection.