

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

The Board of Trustees desires to protect students from risks posed by exposure to infectious diseases while providing a high-quality education for all students. The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local and state health officials to develop and regularly update a comprehensive plan for disease prevention that promotes preventative measures, mitigation, education, communication, and training of students and staff. All measures to limit the spread of infectious diseases shall be nondiscriminatory and ensure that equity is promoted.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review resources available from health experts to ensure that district programs and operations are based on the most up-to-date information.

The district's comprehensive health education program shall provide age-appropriate information about the nature and symptoms of communicable diseases, their transmission, and how to help prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

If the local health officer notifies the district of an outbreak of a communicable disease, or the imminent and proximate threat of a communicable disease outbreak or epidemic that threatens the public's health, the district shall take any action that the health officer deems necessary to control the spread of the disease. The district shall comply with all applicable state and federal privacy laws in regard to any such information received from the local health officer. (Health and Safety Code 120175.5)

Students and staff shall observe universal precautions in order to prevent exposure to bloodborne pathogens and to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform students of the precautions to be used in cases of exposure to blood or other body fluids through injury, accident, or classroom instruction.

**Students with Infectious Diseases**

The Superintendent or designee shall exclude students from on-campus instruction only in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. Because bloodborne pathogens such as hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are not casually transmitted, the presence of infectious conditions of this type is not, by itself, sufficient reason to exclude students from attending school.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to inform the Superintendent or designee if their child has an infectious disease so that school staff may work cooperatively with the student's parents/guardians to minimize the child's exposure to other diseases in the school setting. If necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the local health official of any potential outbreak. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that student confidentiality rights are strictly observed in accordance with law.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES****Prevention and Mitigation Plan**

The Superintendent or designee shall work with state and local health officials to develop and regularly update a plan to prevent and mitigate the spread of infectious diseases. Components of the plan may include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. A communication strategy for informing students, parents/guardians, staff, and the community about the disease(s), including symptoms, complications, transmission, and current recommendations from state and local departments of public health
2. Protocols for assessing when campus closures are necessary and when campus(es) may reopen
3. Alternative means of instruction, schedules, and attendance, including the provision of instruction to students with disabilities, English learners, and foster or homeless youth, in the event of campus closures or partial closures
4. Guidelines regarding preventative measures such as social distancing, personal protective equipment, temperature checks, and/or other health screening allowed by law
5. Protocols regarding the acquisition and provision of personal protective equipment and other supplies
6. Procedures for the cancellation or alteration of extracurricular activities and field trips
7. Protocols for transportation of students using district vehicles
8. Information on effective hygiene practices
9. Provisions for continuing free and reduced-price meal services
10. Processes for protecting students who are at higher risk from the disease
11. Programs that enhance a positive school climate and foster the emotional well-being of all students
12. Guidelines for cleaning and sanitization of district facilities and equipment
13. Protocols for visitors and outside groups that utilize district facilities
14. Staff training

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report to the local health officer the presence or suspected presence of any communicable disease. (17 CCR 2508)

Before students work with blood, blood products, or other body fluids, the teacher shall explain the potentially hazardous nature of blood and body fluids in the transmission of various agents

**Universal Precautions in the Classroom**

from one person to another and the specific procedures and safety precautions to be used in the lesson.

The following precautions shall be used when students are working with blood or other body fluids:

1. Before and after exposure to blood or other body fluids, students shall wash their hands with soap and water and cover any existing cut, wound, or open sore with a sterile dressing.
2. Students shall wear gloves or other personal protective equipment as appropriate.
3. Blood typing or similar experiments may be conducted by teacher demonstrations. When being performed individually, students shall work with their own blood or use prepackaged ABO/Rh blood cell kits that have vials of blood previously tested for transmissible agents.
  - a. For finger punctures, students shall use individual sterile lancets that have engineered sharps injury protection and shall not reuse them.
  - b. Before the finger is punctured, it shall be wiped with a piece of cotton that has been immersed in alcohol.
  - c. If bleeding persists after the finger is punctured, the student shall apply a sterile bandage using moderate pressure.
4. Lancets and any other materials contaminated with blood or body fluids shall be discarded into a solution consisting of one part bleach to 10 parts water (1:10), made fresh daily.
5. At the end of the class, surfaces shall be wiped with alcohol or a solution of one part bleach to 10 parts water.