

NOTE: While Colorado school districts are not required by law to adopt a policy on this subject, some content in this sample reflects legal requirements school districts must follow. This sample contains the content/language that CASB believes best meets the intent of the law. However, the district should consult with its own legal counsel to determine appropriate language that meets local circumstances and needs.

Communicable/Infectious Diseases

The school district is required to provide educational services to all school age children who reside within its boundaries. By law, however, admission to school may be denied to any child diagnosed as having a disease whereby attendance could be harmful to the welfare of other students.

The Board of Education recognizes that communicable diseases which may afflict students range from common childhood diseases, acute and short-term in nature, to chronic, life-threatening diseases such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. This school district shall rely on the advice of the medical community in assessing the risk of transmission of various communicable diseases to determine how best to protect the health of both students and staff. The risk of transmitting HIV/AIDS is extremely low in school settings when current guidelines and preventative measures are followed.

Management of common communicable diseases shall be in accordance with Colorado Department of Health guidelines. A student who exhibits symptoms of a readily-transmissible communicable disease may be temporarily excluded from school attendance.

Students who complain of illness at school may be referred to the school nurse and may be sent home by the principal as soon as the parent/guardian or person designated on the student's emergency medical authorization form has been notified.

The district reserves the right to require a physician's statement authorizing the student's return to school.

In all proceedings related to this policy, the district shall respect the student's right to privacy.

When information is received by a staff member or volunteer that a student is afflicted with a serious, readily-transmissible disease, the staff member or volunteer shall promptly notify the school nurse or principal to determine appropriate measures to protect student and staff health and safety. The principal, after consultation with the student and parent/guardian, shall determine which additional staff members, if any, have need to know of the affected student's condition. Only those persons with direct responsibility for the care of the student shall be informed of the specific nature of the condition if it is determined there is a need for such individuals to know this information.

The superintendent shall initiate procedures to ensure that all medical information will be held in strict confidence. Any school staff member who violates confidentiality shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures.

(Adoption date)

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-33-104 (2)(a)
C.R.S. 22-33-106 (2)

CROSS REFS.: EBBA, Prevention of Disease/Infection Transmission
JLCA, Physical Examinations of Students
JLCCA, Students with HIV/AIDS
JLCE, First Aid and Emergency Medical Care
JRA/JRC, Student Records/Release of Information on Students

NOTE: See Colorado Department of Health guidelines, "Infectious Disease Flipchart for School Personnel," available in each school building.