

## STAFF HEALTH AND SAFETY

### (Communicable Diseases)

It is the policy of the School District to take reasonable and lawful measures to protect students and staff members from the transmission of communicable diseases. The Superintendent is authorized to adopt such procedures as are necessary to implement this policy in a manner consistent with state and federal laws.

#### Exclusion from School

A staff member who has a communicable disease shall be excluded from school only if the staff member presents a direct threat to the health or safety of others in the school workplace. The outbreak control measures and other directives of the Department of Health Services (DHS) and local health agencies shall be acted upon as the best medical knowledge and judgments with regard to the exclusion of a staff member who has a communicable disease that is addressed by DHS regulations. The communicable diseases specifically addressed by DHS regulations are listed at A.A.C. R9-6-301 *et seq.*

A staff member who has a chronic communicable disease, such as tuberculosis or HIV/AIDS, shall not be excluded unless a significant risk is presented, to the health and safety of others, which cannot be eliminated by reasonable accommodation. The Superintendent shall consult with legal counsel and health professionals, as necessary, to ensure that exclusion of a staff member with a chronic communicable disease will not violate the staff member's rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The school nurse or other person designated by the Superintendent must reassess a staff member who is excluded from school because of a communicable disease before the staff member returns to work. The District may require a physician's written medical release as a condition for the staff member's return to work.

#### Reporting and Notification

The District shall report to its local health agency each diagnosed and suspected case of a communicable disease that must be reported under state or local law. Disease outbreaks that the District must report by telephone within twenty-four (24) hours, pursuant to A.A.C. R9-6-202(C), are:

- Foodborne/waterborne illness.
- Giardiasis.
- Haemophilus influenzae, type b, invasive disease.
- Hepatitis A.
- Measles (rubeola).

- Meningococcal invasive disease.
- Mumps.
- Pertussis (whooping cough).
- Rubella (German measles).
- Scabies.
- Shigellosis.

Outbreaks of pediculosis (lice infestation) also must be reported, pursuant to A.A.C. R9-6-342.

If an outbreak of a communicable disease occurs in a school setting, the Superintendent or the school nurse shall promptly inform staff members who are known to have special vulnerability to infection. The District does not assume any duty to notify an employee of health risks caused by the presence of a communicable disease in the school setting unless the at-risk employee has notified the District of the conditions when notification is needed.

### **Confidentiality**

The District shall make reasonable efforts to maintain the confidentiality of staff members' medical conditions. All medical information relating to employees is confidential. The identity of a staff member who has a communicable disease and/or the nature of the communicable disease may be disclosed only to:

- Staff members who must have such information to carry out their duties under this policy; or
- Staff members or students (or their parents/guardians) who must have such information to protect themselves from direct threat to their health or safety.

Inquiries or concerns by staff members or others regarding communicable diseases or a staff member who is known or believed to have a communicable disease shall be directed to the Superintendent or the school nurse.

### **Universal Precautions**

The District shall follow the "Universal Precautions Standard" set forth in the attached Exhibit GBGCB-E to protect employees who are at risk of being exposed to blood and body fluids in the course of their work.

### **Food Service Workers**

The District shall follow the guidance of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services concerning infectious and communicable diseases transmitted through the handling of food, and special precautions required for food services workers.

**HIV/AIDS**

Current medical information indicates that HIV can be transmitted by sexual intercourse with an infected partner, by injection of infected blood products, and by transmission from an infected mother to her child in utero or during the birth process. None of the identified cases of HIV infection in the United States are known to have been transmitted in a school setting or through any other casual person-to-person contact. There is no evidence that HIV is spread by sneezing, coughing, shaking hands, hugging, or sharing toilets, food, water, or utensils. According to best medical knowledge and judgments, the use of the "universal precautions" and other procedures that implement this policy are sufficient to protect staff members and students from transmission of HIV at school.

*Adopted:* date of manual adoption

LEGAL REF.: A.R.S. 36-621  
36-624  
A.A.C. R9-6-101  
R9-6-202 et seq. (Reporting and Control Measures for  
Communicable Diseases)  
29 U.S.C. 794 et seq. (Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act)  
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq. (Americans with Disabilities Act)  
29 C.F.R. 1630 (ADA guidelines)  
29 C.F.R. 1910.10 (OSHA Universal Precautions Standard)

CROSS REF.: GBGC - Employee Assistance  
GBGCA - Wellness Programs  
JLCB - Immunizations of Students