

## STUDENT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The board recognizes the need and right of all students to receive free and appropriate education. The board further recognizes its responsibility to provide a healthy environment for all students and school employees.

Students who are afflicted with a communicable, contagious, and/or infectious disease and who are infected with communicable parasites or who are liable to transmit such disease or parasite may be excluded from school attendance.

A determination of whether an infected student should be excluded from the classroom or school activities shall be made on a case-by-case basis, under the direction of the principal/building administrator designee and the State Department of Health Guidelines.

In situations where the decision requires additional expertise and knowledge, the building administrator will refer the case to an advisory committee for assistance in the decision making.

The advisory committee may be composed of:

1. a representative from the State Health Department;
2. the student's physician;
3. the student's parents or guardian(s);
4. the school principal or designee;
5. the school nurse
6. the superintendent or designee; and
7. primary teachers

In making the determination, the advisory committee shall consider

1. the behavior, developmental level, and physical condition of the student;
2. the expected type(s) of interaction with others in the school setting;
3. the impact on both the infected student and others in that setting;
4. the South Dakota Department of Health guidelines and policies; and
5. the recommendation of the County Health Officer, which may be controlling.

The advisory health committee may officially request assistance from the State Department of Health.

If it is decided that the student will not be permitted to attend class and/or participate in school activities, arrangements will be made to provide an alternative educational program.

Public information will not be revealed about the student who may be infected. If the student is permitted to remain in the school setting, the following procedures will be followed by the superintendent/principal:

Information will be provided, as appropriate, to school employees who have regular contact with the student, as to the student's medical condition and other factors needed for consideration in carrying out job responsibilities.

If a student is excluded from school because of a confirmed communicable disease, the superintendent/building principal will notify the parent/guardian of the student. The student shall remain home until he/she has the physician's order to return.

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REFERENCE: Control of Communicable Diseases, 14<sup>th</sup> Ed., 1985—Abram S. Benenson, Editor.  
Department of Health Recommendations for School-Age Students with HIV Infection-South Dakota Department of Health, December 1995.