

## STUDENTS

### WELFARE SERVICES - COMMUNICABLE AND CHRONIC INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 93 recognizes that a student with a communicable or chronic infectious disease is eligible for all rights, privileges, and services provided by law and the District's policies. The District shall balance the individual's rights with the District's obligation to protect the health of all District students and staff.

#### 1.0 Application

1.1 This policy shall apply to all students known to be infected with a communicable or chronic infectious disease, including persons diagnosed by a physician as having Hepatitis Type B, Herpes Simplex virus, or an illness due to infection with the HTLV-III (AIDS) virus and persons who are asymptomatic but have virologic or serologic evidence of infection with the HTLV-III virus. This policy shall not apply to children or siblings of an infected person unless they are also infected.

1.2 All determinations, notifications and actions undertaken by the District in connection with a potential or actual case of a chronic communicable or contagious disease shall be in compliance with applicable State and Federal laws and regulations.

#### 2.0 Identification

2.1 Teachers and other staff personnel shall inform the Certified School Nurse or Registered Nurse in confidence of signs or serious illness in all students. When a chronic communicable disease is known or suspected in a student, the Certified School Nurse or Registered Nurse shall immediately inform the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall inform the Board of Education at the earliest possible time.

#### 3.0 Evaluation and Placement of Students

3.1 The Board of Education recognizes that the management and control of a school environment free from communicable and chronic infectious disease requires the cooperation and effort of the school staff and community. In order to promote and ensure appropriate student health standards, a Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease Review Team shall be appointed by the Board. Team members shall include a physician advisor, a faculty member selected by the administration, the Certified School Nurse, Registered Nurse, the Principal, and the Superintendent. The Board of Education may designate one or more of its members to participate in such team review. The child's parent(s) or guardian(s) may be included in the team where appropriate. The Superintendent shall be authorized to convene the Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease Review Team.

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The responsibility of the Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease Review Team shall be determined by the Board of Education and may include the responsibility:

1. to review, on an individual basis, the medical history of the student who has a communicable or chronic infectious disease;
2. to recommend to the Superintendent modifications to the student's day or program, as necessary, to protect public health;
3. to recommend to the Superintendent that the student continue to attend school in the regular classroom setting;
4. to recommend to the Superintendent that the student attend school in a different classroom setting;
5. to recommend the possible temporary exclusion of the student from school;
6. to recommend when the student may return to his/her regular classroom setting;
7. to recommend additional rules and/or procedures concerning hygiene designed to reduce or eliminate the risks of transmission of the infectious disease.

The Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease Review Team shall be guided by the policies of the School Board, rules and regulations promulgated by the Illinois State Department of Public Health, and all other relevant state and federal laws and regulations, and shall consult the student's personal physician and public health authorities before taking any action or making any recommendations. In cases where there is a dispute between the personal physician and public health official, the Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease Review Team shall be guided by the advice of the public health officials.

In the exercise of its responsibilities, the Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease Review Team shall respect the privacy rights of each student and take such precautions as may be necessary to secure the student's privacy. The student's medical records shall be held in strict confidence. The team's report and recommendations shall be forwarded to the Superintendent and the Board of Education.

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- 3.2 A student infected with a chronic communicable disease may attend school in the regular classroom setting whenever, through reasonable accommodation, the risk of transmission of the disease and/or the risk of further injury to the student is sufficiently remote in such setting so as to be outweighed by the detrimental effects of the student's placement in a more restrictive setting.
- 3.3 Decisions regarding the type of educational program and activities of an infected student shall be based on the behavior, neurologic development and physical condition of the child, the characteristics of the particular disease involved, and the expected type of interaction with others in that setting. If the team determines at any point that the health and safety of the student or others would be endangered by the student's continued presence in his or her current educational program, the Superintendent may direct a temporary exclusion or an interim alternative placement pending the completion of these review procedures, provided the student continues to receive an appropriate education.
- 3.4 The educational programs and activities of a student shall be determined by weighing the risks and benefits to both the infected child and to others. Because the benefits of an unrestricted educational program to infected school-aged children usually outweigh the risks of their transmitting or acquiring potentially harmful infections in the school setting, an infected student should be allowed to attend school whenever possible. The appropriateness of attendance in physical education, industrial arts, home economics, music courses, etc. shall be considered where appropriate.
- 3.5 For extremely young or neurologically handicapped children who lack control of their body secretions or who display behavior such as biting, and children who have uncoverable lesions, a more restricted environment shall be considered to minimize exposure of other children or staff to blood or body fluids or other increased risk of infection. Exclusion of the child from school or other change in placement may be appropriate.
- 3.6 If it is determined that a change in the student's current educational placement is warranted, a case study evaluation of the student shall be commenced and an individualized education program developed in accordance with the Illinois School Code and the Rules and Regulations of the Illinois State Board of Education. Participation in the case study evaluation shall be had on a "need to know" basis.

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- 3.7 Because the hygiene practices of children with chronic communicable diseases, including HTLV-III infection, may improve with age or deteriorate if the child's condition worsens, evaluations to assess the need for a restricted environment shall be conducted regularly.
- 3.8 During the period of a student's illness, the District, through the Superintendent or his/her designee, will offer emotional support to the student and his or her family.
- 4.0 Awareness
- 4.1 The District shall promote public knowledge and awareness of chronic communicable and contagious diseases, including AIDS and the transmission of the HTLV-III virus, in order to assist efforts to provide the best care and education for infected students while minimizing the risk of transmission to others.
- 4.2 Instruction for students in grades 6 through 12 shall include information on the prevention, transmission and spread of AIDS. If the parent or guardian of any student in those grades objects to a student's participation in such course instruction, that student shall be excused from such instruction, but the refusal to participate due to the objection of a parent or guardian shall not be grounds for suspension or expulsion of the student.
- 4.3 The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for communicating and interpreting the District's communicable and chronic infectious disease policies and procedures to School District personnel, parents, students, and community members.
- 5.0 Background Medical Information Concerning AIDS
- 5.1 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a severe disruption of the immune system, rendering the infected individual susceptible to a variety of infections and malignancies. AIDS is the most severe manifestation of infection with Human T-Cell Lymphotropic Virus Type III (HTLV-III), which is also known as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Lymphadenopathy Associated Virus (LAV), or AIDS-Related Virus (ARV). Not all persons infected with the HTLV-III virus develop AIDS. A large percentage of persons infected with HTLV-III will develop detectable, but apparently less severe abnormalities of the immune system. This condition is called the AIDS Related Complex (ARC).

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- 5.2 It is believed that the HTLV-III virus is transmitted through the direct exchange of body fluids, especially blood and semen, between an infected individual and a noninfected one. Although the virus has been isolated in a wide range of body fluids (blood, semen, saliva, tears, breast milk, and urine), medical information suggests that transmission does not occur through causal physical contact or contact with inanimate objects. The risk of communication is generally known to have occurred from sexual intercourse, invasive exposure to contaminated blood or blood products (e.g., intravenous drug use [or shared needles], transfusion) or prenatal exposure from infected mother to infant.
- 5.3 Apparently, the HTLV-III virus does not survive outside the body for extended periods of time and is inactivated by most common disinfectants. Viral transmission is not believed to occur through common use of drinking glasses, swimming pools, towels, public rest room facilities, or from food.

#### 6.0 Additional Guidelines

- 6.1 Care involving exposure to an infected student's body fluids and excrement shall be performed by the Certified School Nurse, Registered Nurse, or other persons who are aware of the child's infection with a chronic communicable disease and the modes of possible transmission. Thorough handwashing after exposures to blood and body fluids and before caring for another child shall be observed, and gloves shall be worn at all times on the caretaker's hands when handling bodily fluids. Any open lesions on the infected child should also be covered.
- 6.2 The Administration shall adopt guidelines and procedures for handling of the blood and body fluids of all children.

#### 7.0 Confidentiality

- 7.1 The number of school personnel who are aware of the infected student's condition shall be kept at a minimum needed to assure proper care and to detect situations where the potential for transmission may increase (i.e., bleeding injury). They should be provided with appropriate information and should be made aware of the requirements of confidentiality. They shall not further disclose such information. The infected student's privacy shall be respected, and all records concerning the infected student shall be confidential. The existence of an HTLV-III infection or chronic communicable disease shall be reported to the Department of Public Health or such other public authorities as required by law.

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- 7.2 If the Principal of the school in which the student is enrolled is notified by the Illinois Department of Public Health or a local health department or any other person or entity that a student has been diagnosed as having AIDS or ARC, or has been shown to have been exposed to the HTLV-III virus or any other identified causative agent of AIDS, the Principal shall immediately disclose the identity of the student to the Superintendent. The Principal may, as necessary, disclose the identity of an infected student to the Certified School Nurse and/or the Registered Nurse at that school, the classroom teachers in whose classes the student is enrolled and the persons responsible for deciding the placement or educational program of the student. In addition, the Principal may inform such other persons, including the President of the Board of Education, as may be necessary that an infected student is enrolled at that school so long as the student's identity is not revealed.

LEGAL REF.: Illinois School Code, Sec. 10-21.11, 27-9.1, and 27-9.2 (105 ILCS 5/10-21.11, 5/27-9.1, and 5/27-9.2);  
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C., 1232 (g));  
Americans With Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C., 12101, *et seq.*);  
Illinois Department of Public Health Act, Sec. 6 (20 ILCS 2305/6);  
Illinois Communicable Disease Prevention Act (410 ILCS 315/0.01, *et seq.*);  
Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504; and  
Rules and Regulations for the Control of Communicable Diseases issued by the Ill. Dept. of Public Health.

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