

SECTION K
STUDENT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

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 a disease or parasite may be excluded from school attendance.

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

A determination of whether an infected student 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 or designee.

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 chief executive officer (CEO)/superintendent or designee; and
- 6) primary teacher(s)

In making the determination, the advisory committee shall consider:

- 1) the behavior, developmental level, and medical 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;
- 5) the recommendation of the County Health Officer, which may be controlling.

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

If it is determined that the student will not be permitted to attend classes and/or participate in school activities, arrangements will be made to provide an alternate educational program. If that requires personal contact between student and school employees, only trained volunteer employees shall be utilized.

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 procedure will be followed by the chief executive officer (CEO)/superintendent and/or 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.

Health guidelines for school attendance are established and interpreted within the context of the case. The guidelines are not inclusive but are available to be used as a resource. School personnel will refer to school health professionals for specific judgments in interpreting the guidelines.

Instruction in appropriate handling of blood and body fluids will be provided. Hand washing after contamination, food preparation and health/hygiene care performed in different sink and work areas, maintenance cleaning and other personal hygiene measures are part of creating a healthy environment.