

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, CONDITIONS AND PARASITES

3.80

It is the intent of the Henry County Board of Education, in cooperation with county and state regulations designed to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of school children and Board employees. Health and wellness instruction as provided by the Alabama State Department of Education Courses of Studies, legislative acts, and local curriculum guides shall be included in instruction for students at the designated and appropriate grade levels, including HIV/AIDS prevention instruction annually in grades 5 through 12, drug and alcohol abuse prevention instruction and activities, nutrition/wellness, suicide prevention, and hygiene/safety/first aid lessons where appropriate.

Communicable/Infectious Diseases or Conditions

Students and/or employees having communicable diseases and/or conditions (head lice, scabies, etc.), including students wishing to enroll or potential employees, will be dealt with on an individual basis. Administrators and supervisors shall observe current Regulations for the Control of Communicable Diseases in the schools of the Henry County Schools as required by the State Board of Health. The system's nurse(s) will maintain liaison with the State Board of Health and support the processing of cases.

The Superintendent shall have the authority to exclude a student and/or an employee from attendance when reliable evidence confirms he/she has a communicable disease or condition that is known to be spread by any form of casual contact and is considered a health threat to the school population. Such a student or employee shall be excluded from school for a period of time as may be prescribed by the school nurse, local health department or a physician. The Superintendent may require written documentation from health department officials and/or a physician to allow the student or employee to resume attendance.

Due process will be followed when reliable evidence or information from a qualified source confirms that a student or employee is known to have a communicable disease or infection that is known not to be spread by casual contact (i.e. HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, etc.).

Infection Control

All employees are required to consistently follow infection control guidelines in all settings and at all times, including playgrounds and school buses. Schools will operate according to the standards promulgated by the U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration for the prevention of blood borne infections. Equipment and supplies needed to apply the infection control guidelines will be maintained and kept reasonably accessible. The Superintendent's designee shall implement the precautions and investigate, correct, and report on instances of lapse.

CHAPTER 3.00 - SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Exposure Control Plan and Staff Development

The Superintendent will direct the preparation of procedures for processing cases and an exposure control plan. Procedures will incorporate appropriate considerations of confidentiality. Employee training and communication of school system procedures related to student health education, exposure control, communicable diseases and conditions, pediculosis screening, and standard precautions shall be implemented by the direction of the Superintendent.

Certificate of Immunization

A certificate of immunization against diseases designated by the state health officer shall be required before a student can be enrolled initially in kindergarten or first grade in the Henry County School System. If this requirement cannot be met according to federal law, the student will be allowed to enroll and all efforts will be made by school employees (including but not limited to the principal, teacher, and school nurse) to help the student meet this requirement.

Confidentiality of Medical Information

All persons privileged with any medical information that pertains to students or employees shall be required to treat all proceedings, discussions, and documents as confidential information. Before any medical information is shared with anyone in the school setting, a “need-to-know” review shall be made. Such a review committee shall include the parent/guardian of the affected student, the student if over age 18, the affected employee or his/her representative.

REFERENCE(S):

**CODE OF ALABAMA
16-8-9, 16-29-1 TO -6, AAC §290-1-4-.01**

HISTORY:

**ADOPTED: JANUARY 16, 1997
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FORMERLY: IDB, JGCC**