

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #33

Communicable/Infectious Diseases

Although precautions have been taken to prevent the presence of communicable/infectious diseases in our schools, the rare possibility of such occurrences does exist.

Employees shall be alert to signs of illness and communicable disease symptoms and shall refer such concerns to the school nurse. The school nurse shall be responsible for evaluating all such referrals. If an individual is suspected of having a communicable disease, the school nurse shall notify the principal and parents/guardians (if appropriate) of the suspected case. The school nurse shall also consult with the Bureau of Health at the Maine Department of Human Services to determine if a public health threat exists.

If it is determined that exclusion is necessary to prevent the transmission of a communicable disease, the school nurse shall identify those individuals (students and/or employees) who are infected or who pose a potential threat of being infected. The school nurse shall inform the Superintendent of the need to exclude them from school and school-related activities. The Superintendent, or his/her designee, shall notify the identified individuals.

If a student is excluded for more than ten days, the student's educational needs will be met by making arrangements for the delivery of school assignments, correction of papers, and similar activities which can be accomplished at home.

If an employee is excluded from work due to being identified as being a possible agent for the transmission of a communicable disease, the employee shall be permitted to take "sick leave" benefits, if such benefits are available.

Before being readmitted to school, an affected student or employee shall be required to present a note from a physician stating that the individual no longer poses a threat of transmitting a communicable disease.

Any person who receives information pursuant to this policy shall treat as confidential the names and any other personal information of individuals having or suspected of having a reportable communicable disease. This information may be released only to the proper authorities, as permitted by applicable law. All information that does not name or otherwise identify individuals having, or suspected of having, a reportable communicable disease may be made available to the public.

Legal Reference: 5 MRSA § 19201 et seq.
20-A MRSA § 1001 (11-A), 6301
22 MRSA § 801, 802, 806, 823, 824
M.D.O.E. Rules Chapter 126

History: Adopted Meeting # 783 Date June 12, 2003