

**COMMUNICABLE, CONTAGIOUS, OR INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL****HIV-POSITIVE AND AIDS**

When a student is identified as having Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the Superintendent will be notified. Decisions regarding the admission, exclusion or alternative placement of students with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) will be made on a case-by-case basis by a team including, but not limited to, a district appointed licensed physician, administrator and school nurse. If further action is deemed necessary, the Superintendent will institute a procedural review process outlined below. Each decision will be based in part on medical advice and the recommendation of this review panel.

**OTHER SEVERE COMMUNICABLE, CONTAGIOUS, OR INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

Decisions regarding the admission, exclusion or alternative placement of students with other severe communicable, contagious, or infectious diseases including, but not limited to, hepatitis, cytomegalovirus (CMV), and herpes, shall be determined according to the Education Code and recommendations of the California State Department of Education's advisories concerning communicable, contagious, or infectious diseases. When appropriate, the Superintendent may elect to implement the procedural review process.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that student confidentiality rights are strictly observed in accordance with law. No district employee shall release medical information, including knowledge of a bloodborne pathogen infection, without written consent from the parent/guardian. Such information may be shared only with those persons specifically named in the written permission.

**PROCEDURAL REVIEW**

1. A review committee will be composed of, but not limited to, a district appointed licensed physician, administrator and school nurse. This committee shall be chaired by the appropriate administrator.
2. The parent/guardian and/or the student who has an identified communicable, contagious, or infectious disease shall be notified and shall have the opportunity to provide input for consideration by the review committee. This input may be presented orally and/or in writing including medical records and opinions.
3. The review committee will assess the student's situation related to the safety of the student, other students, and staff, and to the control of the communicable, contagious, or infectious disease under consideration and make recommendations to the Superintendent. The panel will consider: (a) the nature of the risk (how the disease is transmitted); (b) the duration of the risk (how long the carrier is contagious or infectious); (c) the severity of the risk (what is the potential for harm to other parties or to the infected person); (d) the probability the disease will be transmitted and will cause

varying degrees of harm.

4. The review committee may develop recommendations regarding the placement status of a student with a communicable, contagious, or infectious disease with consideration for the safety of the student, other students, employees and the control of the communicable, contagious, or infectious disease.
5. Within five (5) working days of the review committee's final meeting, the review committee will prepare and present to the Superintendent a written recommendation regarding the case.
6. The parent/guardian of a student with HIV/AIDS may ask the Superintendent or designee to convene a review panel to make recommendations regarding appropriate programs and services. The parent/guardian must provide written permission for the disclosure of confidential information to each review panel member.
7. The student's placement status will be monitored by the appropriate administrator by communicating with the student's personal physician and/or other appropriate personnel when indicated.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S DETERMINATION**

The Superintendent will determine the appropriate course of action based in part on medical advice and the recommendations of the review committee. This course of action may include educational program options, or other appropriate accommodations. Action shall provide the student with educational opportunities while protecting the health and safety of the infected student as well as the health and safety of other students, staff, and public. This action will also take into consideration the established procedures for placement of special education students and for exclusion and expulsion of students in schools and programs. The decision of the Superintendent shall be communicated in writing to the student and parent/guardian, and shall include a copy of the review committee's recommendations when applicable.

#### **RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

1. A release of medical information form signed by the student's parent or guardian shall be obtained before requesting a physician's statement regarding the student's health condition.
2. Confidential medical records concerning the student's health condition shall be maintained in accordance with law and shall be released only to authorized personnel. These records shall not be released to others without the written approval of the student's parent/guardian or by judicial order.

#### **PRIVACY RIGHTS**

1. The number of employees informed of the student's condition shall be the minimum needed to ensure confidentiality and to detect situations in which the potential for transmission of the disease may increase.

2. It is the responsibility of all employees to respect the confidentiality of medical information provided to them and the individual's right to privacy. No employee who has access to confidential medical information shall provide the information to any unauthorized persons. Sharing information about AIDS/HIV infection is prohibited by law and subject to a civil penalty and/or fine.
  
3. In cases where it has been determined that a student with a communicable, contagious, or infectious disease poses a substantial and immediate risk to others in the classroom because of the student's personal habits or the nature of the disease, the employee(s) assigned to work with the student, the students assigned to the same classroom, and their parents/guardians will be notified of potential risks by the appropriate administrator.

**DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome:** A disease that breaks down a part of the body's immune system, leaving its victim vulnerable to a variety of life-threatening illnesses.

**Communicable Disease:** An illness due to a specific infectious agent or its toxic products which arises through transmissions of that agent or its products from an infected person or animal or a reservoir to a susceptible host -- either directly, as from an infected person, or indirectly, through the agency of an intermediate host.

**Contagious:** A lay term meaning "communicable".

**Cytomegalovirus (CMV):** A virus which has been included in the herpes virus family. It rarely causes symptoms, but may affect an unborn infant if the mother becomes infected during the first three months of pregnancy.

**Hepatitis B:** A viral infection involving the liver, whose symptoms may include poor appetite, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, fever, jaundice, joint pain, and skin rash. Transmission of infection is usually by direct contact with infected blood on open wounds, but may occur from contact with infected saliva on open wounds.

**Herpes Simplex:** An infectious disease caused by the Herpes Simplex virus. Affected sites usually occur where the mucous membrane joins the skin.

**HIV Infection - Human Immunodeficiency Virus:** A condition in which a person has developed specific antibodies in response to being exposed to the AIDS virus. This person will be infected for the rest of his/her life and is capable of infecting others even though he/she may not have AIDS.

**Infected Person:** A person that harbors an infectious agent and who has either manifest disease or a symptomatic infection from whom the infectious agent can be acquired.

**Infectious Agent:** An organism that is capable of producing infection or infectious disease.

**Infectious Disease:** A clinically apparent disease resulting from an infection.

**COMMUNICABLE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION**

The following precautions shall be used in the handling of blood and bodily fluids:

1. Non-sterile disposable latex gloves should be worn when handling blood (such as providing care for nosebleeds, bleeding gums, cuts or wounds); blood-soiled items (such as menstrual pads, bandages or clothing); or secretions (particularly from open sores or wound exudates); as well as surfaces, materials, and objects exposed to them. Gloves should be worn when changing diapers or handling vomitus, urine or feces.
2. Gowns or smocks should be worn if soiling of clothing by body fluids, secretions or excretions is anticipated.
3. Hands should be washed thoroughly after removing gowns or gloves.
4. Hands and body surfaces should be washed immediately if they accidentally become contaminated with blood, blood-soiled items, or secretions.
5. School personnel and students with open skin lesions (such as chapped or cracking skin, eczema, sores, cuts or wounds) must particularly take care to avoid contact with blood, blood-soiled items, or secretions, and should cover their lesions with occlusive dressings or gloves if possible.
6. Extraordinary care should be taken to prevent accidental wounds from potentially contaminated sharp instruments, such as needles, scissors, or knives.
7. Blood spills should be cleaned up promptly with a freshly prepared disinfectant solution of bleach (10 parts water to 1 part bleach). Disposable towels should be used whenever possible, and mops should be rinsed in the disinfectant.
8. Articles and clothing soiled with blood should be placed in leakproof plastic bags and labeled "Blood Precautions" for proper disposal or for washing at the individual's home. For specific protocols regarding handling of blood, please refer to the State Department of Education's publication, "Techniques for Preventing the Spread of Infectious Diseases", (see Hepatitis B Protocol).

Taken from "Guidelines for Handling Body Fluids in Schools", published by the State Department of Education.

Information regarding the availability of vaccines for the prevention of contracting Hepatitis B should be made known and available to all employees of the district.