

## **POLICY IHCF – Communicable and Common Diseases**

**Student health is first and foremost. If a student is excluded from school activities, it will be in accordance with the guidelines established by Alberta Health.**

### **PURPOSE**

To support the school community and foster a positive and healthy school environment where everyone is treated with equality, dignity and respect.

### **BACKGROUND**

Communicable diseases are diseases which can be spread to others. There are two types – viral and bacterial. Some are more serious than others. Communicable diseases can be spread in different ways depending on the particular disease (direct contact, airborne, water/food, blood, body fluids). Many are reportable to the local Public Health Nurse/Medical Officer of Health.

### **GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES**

1. If a student has a common disease, follow the Alberta Health Services Common Diseases Summary (see [Exhibit 1](#)).
2. Notifiable diseases are monitored and controlled by the Communicable Disease Regulation under the *Public Health Act*.
3. If a Principal is advised of a confirmed case of a communicable disease by an AHS Health Inspector or by a nurse with the Centre of Disease Control, then the following protocol will be followed (this protocol also applies to playschools and daycares in the school):
  - a) Principal receives confirmation from a Health Inspector or CDC Nurse,
  - b) Directives are provided by AHS for the Principal to communicate, if necessary.
  - c) Principal forwards confirmation to the Superintendent.
  - d) Superintendent or designate distributes advisory to other schools, attached playschools and daycares, if required.
4. If a student is ill with fever, rash, cough, vomiting or diarrhea or is generally unwell:
  - a) the student will be isolated from the general student population; and
  - b) the Principal shall inform the parents and request that the student be excluded from school until he/she has consulted with a health care provider or the student is better.
5. The identity of a student infected with a communicable disease shall be protected.
6. Everyone (volunteers, students and staff) must use hygienic practices in handling blood and body fluids (see [Exhibit 2](#)).
7. The Policy Review Committee shall review this policy annually to reflect new medical information as it becomes available.

## **REFERENCES**

### **Cross References:**

[Exhibit 1](#) – Common Disease Summary

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/phys/nor/if-hp-phys-moh-nz-school-common-diseases.pdf>

[Exhibit 2](#) – Cleaning and Disinfecting

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/phys/nor/if-hp-phys-moh-nz-school-cleaning-disinfecting.pdf>

[Exhibit 3](#) – Guide for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Schools; Includes Respiratory, Gastrointestinal and Rash Illnesses

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/flu/hi-flu-schools.pdf>

**Alberta Health Service Website: North Zone Medical Officer of Health School  
Outbreak Management Resources**

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/cdc/Page18153.aspx?category=schools>

### **Legal Reference:**

[Public Health Act](#)

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