

MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE ADOPTED:	January 28, 1988	FILE SECTOR:	STUDENTS/STAFF
DATE REVISED:	November 17, 1994	POLICY TITLE:	COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
DATE REVISED:	January 16, 2003		
DATE REVISED:	January 19, 2004		
DATE REVISED:	September 16, 2004		
DATE REVISED:	December 16, 2004		
DATE REVISED:	June 19, 2008		
DATE REVISED:	May 21, 2015		
DATE REVISED:	May 24, 2021		

Medford Area Public School District (MAPSD) Board of Education (BOE) recognizes its responsibility for preserving the safety, protecting the general welfare and promoting the physical, mental and emotional health of individual students, employees, student body and staff. The health and safety of students and staff will be the primary consideration in dealing with communicable disease. This policy's intent is to minimize interruptions to the educational programs of the schools.

MAPSD shall follow federal regulations, state statutes, administrative rules, county and city ordinances and the procedures required by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services regarding communicable disease. The BOE may utilize the recommendations and services of a medical advisor and legal counsel when necessary.

While participating in school-related activities or while on school premises, no student shall refuse to interact or work with other students or staff because they have (or may have) a communicable disease if the communicable disease does not pose a significant health risk to others. At the same time no employee shall refuse to perform their duties or refuse to work with, or provide services to, students or staff because they have (or may have) a communicable disease if the communicable disease does not pose a significant health risk to others. The determination of whether a communicable disease poses a significant health risk to others shall be made by the school nurse in consultation with the district medical advisor in accordance with policy guidelines. Said determination shall be based solely upon the available medical evidence.

CROSS REFERENCE: GBE, GBL, JB, JB-R, JHCA, JHCC-R, JO,
& Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan

LEGAL REFERENCE: Sec. 103.15, 111.31, 118.13, 118.15, 118.125, 118.126, 146.025, 146.82,
& Chapter 252, Wis. Stats., Wis. Admin. Code HHS 145, PI 9, ADA
504, FERPA 34CFR99, IDEA 34CFR300, & Wis. Food Code 2-201.11

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Exclusion from School for Certain Communicable Diseases

The school nurse or designee may exclude a student from school with a communicable disease that poses a high degree of risk to students and staff.

Prior to making a determination that a student should be sent home for diagnosis and treatment or excused from school attendance, the school district nurse shall, to the extent circumstances warrant and permit, inform the student and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of the reasons for the contemplated action and shall consider any information the student and/or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may choose to offer regarding the student's condition.

In determining when a student should be excused from school, the school nurse or designee will reference the Department of Health Services Wisconsin Childhood Communicable Disease Chart, American Academy of Pediatrics Managing Infectious Disease in Childcare and Schools and/or local public health department.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be promptly notified of the exclusion for a possible communicable disease and actions that should be taken for re-admittance to school.

Alternative educational opportunities shall be arranged for students who must be excused from school attendance for a significant period of time.

The health status of a student temporarily removed from the usual school setting to protect the health of self or others will be re-evaluated at regular intervals by the school district nurse in consultation with an IEP Team, local public health department and/or the district medical advisor when appropriate, who shall be responsible for determining when a student may be re-admitted. As a condition of continued or renewed attendance, the district may require a statement from a student's physician that the student is in suitable condition to attend school.

A student should not be excluded from school when the risk of transmission in the school setting is nonexistent or when the district can control the risk of transmission through education of students and staff members and/or the use of supplies to implement hygiene measures.

State Statute and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Wisconsin Statutes give the Department of Health Services the authority to implement all emergency measures necessary to control communicable diseases.

In accordance with Wis. Stat. sec. 252.21 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 145.04, if a school nurse, teacher or principal knows or suspects that a certain communicable disease is present, they must report it to the local public health department. Reportable communicable diseases are noted on the Wisconsin Childhood Communicable Disease Chart from the Department of Health Services.

For Wis. Admin. Code HSS 145.04(1)(d) and 145.04(2); report name and address of the reporter, of the individual with a diagnosed or suspected disease and of their attending physician, together with additional information about the individual with the diagnosed or suspected disease.

Follow-up and investigative information shall be completed by the local health officer and reported to the state epidemiologist HSS 145.05(1).

Maintenance of Information on Communicable Disease

The school nurse shall maintain guidelines on communicable disease which include, but are not limited to, information on how they are transmitted and methods that could be used to reduce the risks of such transmission.