



Students - Series 3000

Communicable Disease – 3414p

Reporting Communicable Disease

In its Communicable Disease Reporting and Resource Manual for School Nurses, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department identifies the communicable diseases that must be reported. After notifying the building principal of cases or suspected cases and outbreaks or suspected outbreaks of these communicable diseases in school, the school nurse reports the information to a health department epidemiology nurse and follows recommendations provided. The information that should be shared with the health department includes reported illness and/or symptoms, affected person's name and phone number, parent/guardian name and phone number if affected person is a student, and healthcare provider's name and phone number. All information about an affected person's health condition that is shared with the health department is confidential.

To cooperate with the health department in monitoring influenza, each building principal, or designated staff, will report daily $\geq 10\%$ absenteeism via the 24-hour Confidential Communicable Disease Reporting Line. The report is to include the following:

- Name of school and district
- Phone #
- Name of reporter
- % absent or number absent and total school population
- Symptoms – (e.g., headache, fever, stomachache, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat, cough, congestion, earache) Be specific about symptoms that parents have reported, and do not use “flu-like symptoms” in the message.

A report via phone or email should also be made to Student Services so district administrators are kept informed.

General Measures of Prevention

A student with symptoms that may indicate a communicable disease will be sent to the health room for first aid. The parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to pick up the child if any of the following are present:

- Fever – oral temperature of 100° F or greater
- Red, draining eye(s)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Rash
- Any symptom(s) causing great discomfort for the student (e.g., severe cough)

The ILLNESS/INJURY REFERRAL form may be used to ask the parent to have the child seen by a health care provider to rule out contagion before returning to school. If the parent/guardian needs assistance securing a health care provider, information about community health care resources will be given.

A student may return to school after illness under the following conditions:

- Fever-free without anti-fever medication for 24 hours
- No vomiting for 24 hours
- No diarrhea for 24 hours
- Note from health care provider indicating no longer contagious

Infection Control Program for Bloodborne Pathogens

Procedures for the district's Infection Control Program for Bloodborne Pathogens are set forth in the Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan. The Director of Human Resources and the Lead School Nurse coordinate the administration of the program and the required annual review and update of the plan and procedures.

Voluntary Disclosure of Information Regarding HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or Other Sexually Transmitted Disease

A student 14 years of age or older, or the parent/guardian of a student under 14 years of age, may choose to disclose personal health information regarding HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or other Sexually Transmitted Disease to school district staff. The student/parent must complete and sign the **Release of Information Regarding HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or Other Sexually Transmitted Disease – STUDENT** form before sharing the information with the identified staff. The release form clearly states that staff may not further disclose the information. The signed release will be stored in the student's medical file in Student Services. If a medical file is not in place for the student, one will be created.

An employee may choose to disclose personal health information regarding HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or other Sexually Transmitted Disease to other school district staff. The employee must complete and sign the **Release of Information Regarding HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or Other Sexually Transmitted Disease – EMPLOYEE** before sharing the information with the identified staff. The release form clearly states that staff may not further disclose the information. The signed release will be stored in the employee's medical file in Human Resources.

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