

Multnomah Education Service District

Code: **EBBA/GBEB/JHCC-AR**
Adopted: 4/16/86
Readopted: 2/12/88; 10/12/94; 10/18/05;
7/25/11

Communicable Diseases

MESD will strictly adhere to the policies and procedures in the Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules as they relate to school restrictable diseases and reportable diseases.

1. Restrictable diseases are communicable diseases which occur in a setting where predictable and serious consequences may occur to the public. A school restrictable disease is defined as a disease which can be readily transmitted in a school setting and to which student and/or staff in a school may be particularly susceptible.
2. An employee who is diagnosed to have a school restrictable disease shall not engage in any activity which involves contact with students, as long the disease is in the communicable stage.

Regulations - OAE 581-022-0705 (excerpted)

- (1) The school district shall maintain a prevention-oriented health services program for all students that provides:
 - (a) Communicable disease control, as provided in the Oregon Revised Statutes; and
 - (b) Compliance with OR-OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standards for all persons who are assigned to job tasks that may put them at risk for exposure to body fluids (ORS 191.103)
- (2) School districts shall adopt policies and procedures that consider admission, placement and supervision of students with communicable diseases, including but not limited to Hepatitis B (HBV), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (OAR 333-019-0015).

Overview

Communicable diseases are transmitted from person to person by various routes. A basic understanding of how these diseases are transmitted and common prevention measures can help decrease the spread of infections. Early identification of signs and symptoms of communicable disease is of paramount importance to increase the health of the school population and decrease school absenteeism.

Background/Rationale

In the school environment, many communicable diseases are transmitted from one individual to another. Effective control includes prevention, early recognition of symptoms, prompt diagnosis and adequate

isolation or treatment. Control measures may include, but are not limited to, education, health appraisals, environmental control, sanitation and immunizations.

Communicable Disease Control Measures - Guidelines for Exclusion

The communicable disease chart “Recommended School Action When a Person Exhibits Symptoms of a Communicable Disease or a Health Care Providers Had Diagnosed a Specific Communicable Disease,” lists information regarding specific communicable diseases and includes control measures school administrators may employ to protect both students and educational personnel.

http://www.mesd.k12.or.us/shs/hss/communicable_disease.shtml

An employee who is diagnosed to have a school restrictable disease shall not engage in any activity which involves contact with students, as long as the disease is in the communicable stage.

Students should be excluded from school if they exhibit:

1. Fever greater than 100.5;
2. Vomiting;
3. Stiff neck or headache with fever;
4. Any rash with or without fever;
5. Unusual behavior change, such as irritability, lethargy, or somnolence;
6. Jaundice (yellow color of skin or eyes);
7. Diarrhea (Three watery or loose stools in one day with or without fever);
8. Skin lesions that are “weepy” (fluid or pus-filled);
9. Colored drainage from eyes;
10. Brown/green drainage from nose with fever at or greater than 100.5 F;
11. Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath; serious, sustained cough;
12. Symptoms or complaints that prevent the student from participating in his/her usual school activities, such as persistent cough, with or without presence or fever; or
13. Student requires more care that the school staff can safely provide.

Only a licensed health care provider can determine a diagnosis and/or prescribe treatment and provide instructions regarding the student’s return to school.

Students needing exclusion due to illness should be separated from other students while waiting for transportation from school setting.

The school nurse or local county health department should always be consulted regarding any written communication that may be developed to notify parents about disease outbreaks, risks to students, families and staff and/or control measures specific to the outbreak.

If you become aware that the child has any of the following diseases, then clearance by the local health department is required before the child returns to school: diphtheria; measles; rubella (German measles); typhoid fever; E. coli 0157 infection; shigellosis; hepatitis A; tuberculosis; or pertussis (whooping cough). Call your health department with questions.

Children with any of the following must be excluded from school until the condition is no longer present, or until the student is cleared to return by a licensed physician or by the school nurse: temperature of 100.5 or higher; diarrhea; vomiting; skin rash; or serious, persistent cough.

Nothing prohibits MESD, component districts or local health departments from adopting more stringent rules for exclusion from school. However, MESD and component district policies must be adopted by formal action of the local school board.

When a person is diagnosed as having diphtheria, measles, pertussis (whooping cough) or rubella (German measles), the local health officer may exclude from school any student or employee who is susceptible to that disease.

Recommendations for School Attendance Restrictions and Reporting

Oregon Administrative Rules identify some communicable diseases as “reportable” or as “school restrictable.” Some communicable diseases may be in both categories.

“Reportable” diseases are to be reported to the local health department by the diagnosing health care practitioner. A school administrator may receive information from a parent or other source regarding a student’s possible diagnosis with a “reportable communicable” disease. The school administrator should refer that information to the school nurse. The health department will confirm the diagnosis and/or provide directions regarding the student’s return to school or action necessary to notify or prevent the spread to other members of the school community.

“School-restrictable” disease are communicable diseases for which the school administrator has the authority to exclude a child when he/she has reasonable cause to believe the child has a school-restrictable disease, until a licensed health care provider (physician, public health nurse, school nurse) certifies that the child is not infectious to others. ¹

¹ Provided by the Oregon Department of Education, revised January 2007. *Guidelines for Exclusion* reviewed and approved by the Communicable Disease Section, Oregon Health Division, revised by School Health Services, and reviewed and approved by Multnomah County Health Department Control, January 2007.

Notification

Notification of the existence of a possible or confirmed reportable communicable disease in a school shall be disseminated in accordance with guidelines set forth by the MESD Health and Social Services Communicable Disease Procedure.

Education

1. The superintendent or designee shall seek information from the Department of Health and Social Services, MESD and component district staff and other appropriate persons regarding the health needs/hazards of all students and the educational needs of the infected student.
2. The superintendent or designee shall, utilizing information obtained in item A above, determine an educational program for the infected student and implement same in an appropriate setting.
3. The superintendent or designee shall, from time to time, review the appropriateness of the educational program and the setting of each individual student.

Equipment and Training

1. The superintendent or designee shall, on a case-by-case basis, determine what equipment and/or supplies are necessary in a particular classroom or other setting.
2. The superintendent shall further determine whether to provide special training in the methods of protection from such communicable disease.