

COMMUNICABLE AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Background

The existence of numerous communicable diseases, including acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), requires Divisions to provide direction with regard to dealing with these conditions in educational settings. Such procedures must reflect both the preservation of the public interest as well as the protection of individual rights and freedoms.

The Division will consult with and follow the directives of the regional health authorities and the regulations of the Public Health Act when confronted with any and all cases of communicable diseases and/or sexually transmitted diseases including cases of HIV/AIDS.

Procedures

1. Principals shall follow the guidelines established by the applicable health authority (Capital, David Thompson) for communicable diseases.
2. Questions regarding communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases, should be directed to Alberta Health Services
3. Providing that the routine hygienic practices and policies are in place, the HIV infected student does not present a risk to other students or staff. Consequently, there is no need to inform school authorities or other staff of the diagnosis except in instances where it is required for the protection of the child or the public. In the unlikely event that this notification is necessary, the number of personnel who are made aware of the child's condition must be kept to an absolute minimum. Should persons involved in the care and education of such students become aware of the HIV infection, the child's right to privacy must be respected and any record kept must be strictly confidential. Confidentiality of information is required by the Public Health Act.
4. In reference to HIV/AIDS infection, no restrictions need to be placed on routine school activities of either students or staff. No student or staff will be prevented from attending school or from carrying out assigned tasks unless, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health and the individual's physician, in consultation with the Director of Communicable Disease Control, there are special circumstances that necessitate some restrictions.

Reference: Section 33,52,53,196,197,222 Education Act
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Health Information Act
Occupational Health and Safety Act
Public Health Act
Communicable Disease Regulation AR 238/85
Ministerial Directive 4.1.1 – HIV/AIDS in Education Settings