

POLICY

SECTION:	HUMAN RESOURCES - GENERAL	POLICY:	E-04
TOPIC:	INFECTIOUS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES	PAGE:	Page 1 of 1
		DATE:	January 2013
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BACKGROUND

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) endeavours to provide a safe environment in which to learn and work. Issues relating to communicable and infectious diseases will be addressed in a caring and respectful manner consistent with the legal requirements of the Ministry of Health (M.O.H.), the Ministry of Education, and DSBN administrative procedures.

STUDENTS WITH INFECTIOUS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

- (a) Students with infectious and communicable diseases are not required to disclose their health status to DSBN personnel. The identity of a student with infectious and communicable diseases shall be protected but may be disclosed after consultation with, and the consent of, the parent(s) or the student, if an adult, or at the direction of the M.O.H.
- (b) Students with infectious and communicable diseases may need to be cleared to return to school by a physician or the M.O.H., once they are of the opinion that the person is no longer infected with an agent of the virulent disease or that the release and discharge of the person will not present a significant risk to the health of members of the public. In certain cases, alternative instruction may become necessary.
- (c) Decisions regarding alternative instruction will be made on a case-by-case basis.

STAFF WITH INFECTIOUS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

- (a) Staff with an infectious and communicable disease are not required to disclose their health status to DSBN personnel. The identity of a staff member with an infectious and communicable disease shall be protected but may be disclosed after consultation with, and the consent of, the staff member or at the direction of the M.O.H.
- (b) Staff with an infectious and communicable disease may need to be cleared to return to work by a physician or the M.O.H., once they are of the opinion that the person is no longer infected with an agent of the virulent disease or that the release and discharge of the person will not present a significant risk to the health of members of the public.

REPORT TO MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

The Principal, under the duties outlined in the *Education Act* and the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, when they are of the opinion that a pupil/staff in the school has or may have a communicable disease, as soon as possible after forming the opinion, must report it to the Medical Officer of Health.

ROUTINE PRACTICES

The blood/bodily fluids of every individual are to be considered potentially infectious. Protective gloves and first aid kits will be available in every school and Board building. Gloves must be used when contact with blood/bodily fluids is anticipated and that hands be washed after provision of first aid or handling of blood/bodily fluids.

All blood/bodily fluids spills must be cleaned up by standard DSBN cleaning procedure and that the contaminated area be disinfected. Place all blood/bodily fluids into a small bucket lined with two garbage bag liners. Tightly close the bags and immediately dispose into outside garbage bin.

CURRICULUM

Education for the staff, students and community members shall be provided as deemed necessary by the principal/supervisor in consultation with the M.O.H. Staff members shall be responsible for being informed about relevant diseases and for adhering to all administrative procedures of the DSBN. Information about infectious and communicable diseases will be provided to all students, as required by the curriculum, in accordance with Ministry of Education guidelines.

References

Public Health Agency of Canada – Notifiable Diseases (<http://dsol-smed.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dsol-smed/ndis/list-eng.php>)
Administrative Procedure 7-1: Empowering Educators: The Legal Rights of Educators in Maintaining Order and Discipline