

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**August 11, 2020**

***SUBJECT:***

Changes to the Administrative Rule JLCC-R Communicable/Infectious Disease

***BACKGROUND INFORMATION:***

Administrative Rule JLCC-R Communicable/Infectious Disease establishes the basic structure for dealing with students who have communicable or infectious diseases. This administrative rule seeks to maintain a balance between the need to educate all eligible students and to control communicable diseases.

***ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:***

Administrative Rule JLCC-R Communicable/Infectious Disease was revised to reflect guidance from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) School and Childcare Exclusion List for the exclusion of students from school due to medical illness or conditions.

***RECOMMENDATION:***

Approve changes to the Administrative Rule JLCC-R Communicable/Infectious Disease

***ATTACHMENTS:***

Administrative Rule JLCC-R Communicable/Infectious Disease

***PREPARED BY:***

Salvatore Minolfo

## COMMUNICABLE/INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Code **JLCC-R** Issued **04/02 08/20**

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Students with communicable diseases, including AIDS and HIV infections, will be permitted to attend school in accordance with this administrative rule only.

Parents/legal guardians should inform the principal of the school when their child or ward is suffering from a communicable disease. The district will be notified by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) when a child is suffering from AIDS or HIV infection. Once notice of AIDS/HIV infection is received from the parent/legal guardian or DHEC, the superintendent will appoint a committee to monitor and/or evaluate the student's health status. The committee will consist of the parent/legal guardian, appropriate health professionals and any district personnel as deemed necessary by the superintendent.

Children with AIDS or HIV infection should be permitted to attend school and school activities without restriction, unless medical or behavioral impairments exist which are severe enough to be hazardous to the infected child or to his/her classmates or staff. The decision will be based on the behavior, neurological development and physical condition of the child and the expected type of interaction with others in the school.

In the case of a child with AIDS/HIV infection, the child's primary health provider is responsible for conducting an ongoing medical evaluation of the child to evaluate any changes in the child's health. The committee will periodically monitor the health status of the child. Evaluation of the child's potential for transmitting the HIV should be made by the health professionals evaluating the child's status. Information shared during the monitoring process is strictly confidential.

If it is determined, based on sound medical evidence and in accordance with the procedures set forth herein, that any child with any communicable disease poses a significant risk to the health and safety of other students in his/her current placement, a determination will be made whether an appropriate adjustment can be made to the student's school program to eliminate the risk. If such adjustments are not possible, an alternative educational program should be offered. This placement will continue, with periodic evaluation, until the risk to others has been abated. The board reserves the right to require a satisfactory certificate from one or more licensed physicians that the student's attendance is no longer a risk to the student or to others.

In case of acute streptococcal tonsillitis, conjunctivitis (pink eye), ringworm of the scalp or scabies, the student will be excluded from school during such illness and be readmitted ~~only on the certificate or acknowledged telephone call or fax of the attending physician or local health authority attesting to such recovery and non-infectiousness according to the guidelines set forth in the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)'s School and Childcare Exclusion List~~. A student with chicken pox will be excluded from school until all lesions are scabbed over and dry, approximately five to seven days. A student infected with head lice may be readmitted under the following conditions.

- ~~accompanied by parent/guardian~~

- ~~evidence of treatment product is provided~~
- ~~hair is found to be nit free on physical inspection~~
- Student shows evidence of treatment as determined by the school.
- Student passes a physical screening by the school nurse or principal's designee that shows the absence of head lice.

If it is the determination of the principal that a student should be sent home with a communicable disease, steps should be taken by the principal to inform parents/legal guardians and to assist in securing non-public transportation for the student. It is the parent/legal guardian's responsibility to have the student examined by a physician. The principal may decide on the appropriateness of readmission of students who have been sent home because of infectiousness, except for HIV infection, in accordance with this administrative rule.

The names of parents/legal guardians who keep their child out of school four or more days without arranging for him/her to see a physician or other health agency will be reported to the office of student services for appropriate action in line with the attendance policy or for the student to receive proper treatment.

Information regarding the medical condition of students is confidential and should be disseminated on strict need to know basis. Accordingly, information should be provided only to those who need the information to protect the health and safety of the student, other students and staff and only to the extent necessary to accomplish that end. All personnel informed of the condition of the student are to be instructed that this information is to be held in the strictest confidence. Confidentiality of records is essential. Breach of confidentiality is punishable by a fine of \$200 or imprisonment for up to the 30 days and could also result in civil liability.

In order to prevent the spread of communicable disease through contact with blood or other potentially infectious material, OSHA guidelines will be distributed to the administration annually and should be followed by all school employees. Students who are exposed to a communicable disease through contact with blood or other potentially infectious material will receive appropriate first aid and their parents advised to contact a physician.

The district should consult DHEC and/or legal counsel before taking any action or disclosing any information regarding a student suffering from AIDS/HIV infection.

Issued 11/26/91; Revised 9/28/99, 4/23/02, 08/11/20

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