

C.O.O.R. INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Communicable Disease Control Policy

The C.O.O.R. Intermediate School District will work cooperatively with the Crawford, Ogemaw, Oscoda, and Roscommon County Health Departments to enforce and adhere to the Michigan Public Health Code (Act 368 of 1978, Parts 51 and 92, as amended) for the prevention, control, and containment of communicable disease in schools.

- A. Students are expected to be in compliance with the immunization requirements specified in Parts 51 (Rule 5 of the Communicable Disease Rules) and 92 of the Public Health Code. In compliance with the Public Health Code and Rules students not meeting the immunization requirements may be excluded from school attendance unless a request for extension for a reasonable length of time is certified and filed. The procedure concerning a request for exemption for immunization will also be in compliance with this Code and Rules. School personnel will cooperate with public health personnel in completing and coordinating all immunization data, exemptions and exclusions, including the necessary Immunization Assessment Program forms (IP-100's), to provide for preventable communicable disease control. *(Obtained from the draft version of the Michigan Department of Public Health rules for communicable disease control. The current Public Health Code and Rules are currently still in effect.)*
- B. The superintendent or a school official designated by the superintendent has the authority to exclude a student or staff member from school when reliable evidence or information from a qualified source (e.g. medical professional, parent/guardian, or the infected eligible student or staff member) confirms him/her of having a communicable disease or infection that is known to be spread by any form of casual contact* and is considered a health risk to the school population. Such a student or staff member shall be excluded unless their physician approves school attendance or the condition is no longer considered contagious. All reportable communicable diseases will be referred to the appropriate county health department.
- C. When reliable evidence or information from a qualified source (e.g. medical professional, parent/guardian, or the infected eligible student or staff member) confirms that a student/staff member is known to have a communicable disease or infection that is known not to be spread by casual contact*, (e.g. AIDS/HIV, Hepatitis B and other like diseases), the infected student/staff member will have the right to remain in the school setting.
 1. If issues or decisions regarding school attendance arise that cannot be informally resolved or if an identified compelling reason exists, the district will follow the protocol for a case-by-case review as outlined in Appendix A. Unless C.2. below applies, the student/staff member will remain in the school setting during this review.
 2. An exception exists if the superintendent after consulting with the appropriate medical professional(s), learns there are clearly documented risks to the infected individual or others in the school setting resulting from other conditions, communicable diseases or infections that could pose an immediate health threat. If a communicable disease or infection that is known to be spread by casual contact is present the provisions of Part B. will apply.

3. If the above named individual is a student who has been determined to be handicapped pursuant to the administrative rules for special education, or is suspected of being physically or otherwise health impaired (POHI) the protocol for special education students outlined in Appendix B will be followed.
- D. Mandatory screening for communicable diseases that are known not to be spread by casual contact is not warranted as a condition for school entry or for employment or continued employment.
- E. Irrespective of the disease presence, routine procedures shall be posted and used and adequate sanitation facilities and supplies will be available for handling blood or body fluids within the school setting or school buses. All school personnel will be trained in the proper procedures for handling blood and body fluids and these procedures will be strictly adhered to.
- F. Confidentiality of Medical Information
1. All persons privileged with any medical information that pertains to students or staff members shall be informed of their legal obligation and liability and required to treat all proceedings, discussions and documents as confidential information. Before any personally identifiable medical information is shared with anyone in the school setting, the statutory protections of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 will routinely be followed.
 2. The district will revise, if necessary, their FERPA policy to provide:
 - a. A requirement that written consent of the eligible student or parent/guardian will be routinely obtained before releasing personally identifiable medical information from a school record. Written consent will include:
 - The information on the disease, infection or condition that may be disclosed;
 - The reason for the disclosure; and
 - To whom the disclosure may be made.
 - b. A process for determining what and to whom personally identifiable medical information can be released from a school record if written consent cannot be obtained and it is deemed necessary to do so. This process will include:
 - The convening of a committee by the Superintendent to evaluate the request for release of specific information to particular persons.
 - An evaluation of the request in regards to district responsibility, FERPA and other legal liability, and the existence of a "legitimate educational interest."
 - A determination of "legitimate educational interest" based on whether sharing this information with a specific individual would favorably affect: (a) the student's ability to learn and

function in the classroom and related settings; (b) the teacher and other district staffs ability to teach or provide other services; (c) the containment of a communicable disease for persons at risk; (d) and the immediate health and safety of the student.

- An emphasis on whether release of this information could lead to discriminatory practices or unauthorized re-disclosure.
3. If the presence of a communicable disease that can be spread by casual contact must be disclosed to persons in the school community, the district will make every attempt to release only general information about the existence of a specific communicable disease in the school with no personally identifiable information.
 4. All personally identifiable medical information of a sensitive nature will be kept in a separate file from the student's CA 60 and will not be released in any form without compliance of subsection F.2.
- G. In accordance with Public Act 139 of 1990, instruction on the principal modes by which dangerous communicable diseases, including, but not limited to, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) are spread and the best methods for the restriction and prevention of these diseases shall be taught in every school. Each person who teaches kindergarten to twelfth grade pupils about HIV infection and AIDS shall have training in HIV and AIDS education for young people. The choice of curricula to be used for HIV infection and AIDS education shall be approved by the district school board. Inservice education on dangerous communicable diseases, confidentiality, school policy and the proper handling of blood and other body fluid spills will be provided to all staff members.
- * "Casual contact" is used here to refer to any contact that does not permit the direct exchange of blood into the bloodstream, semen, or vaginal secretions from one person to another, e.g. shaking hands, sneezing, coughing, sharing eating utensils, sharing food or beverages, toilet seats, furniture, telephones, office equipment, insect bites." ("Responding to HIV and AIDS," A Special Publication for NEA Members from the Health Information Network, 1989, pp.8-9.)