

CHAPTER 5

5.20 Communicable Disease Control (Approved 01/22/07)

5.20.1 Purpose

In accordance with state policy 2423, Marshall County Schools has developed this policy to reflect understanding of disease transmission in the school setting and student/staff rights to attend school.

Good health and safety are essential to student learning. The Marshall County School System will work cooperatively with the Marshall County Health Department to enforce and adhere to the West Virginia Codes: 18A-5-1, 16-3-4, 16-3-4a, 16-3-5, 16-3C-1 through 16-3C-9, 18-2-5, 18-5-9, 18-5-22, and 18-5-34 for prevention, control and containment of communicable disease in schools. Decisions related to student or employee attendance will also be based on P.L. 94-142 and Federal 504 Regulations.

5.20.2 Immunization

Students must be in compliance with the required immunization schedule as set forth by the WVDHHR State Health Officer. The building principal is required under State Statute 16-3-4 to exclude children from school attendance who are out of compliance with the immunizations required by this act. School personnel will cooperate with county/state health personnel in completing and coordinating all immunization data, waivers and exclusions. The immunization record for students shall be entered upon enrollment and reviewed annually into the West Virginia Education Information System (WVEIS).

5.20.2.1 Exceptions

The WVDHHR State Health Officer, or his/her designee (local health officer), shall make the final determination in cases in which an authorized medical practitioner's written medical exemption is challenged by school personnel as inappropriate or invalid.

5.20.3 Exclusion

The administrator or school nurse shall exclude from the school any pupil or pupils when reliable evidence or information from a qualified source confirms him or her of having any communicable disease or infestation known to be spread by casual contact**and is considered to be a health threat to the school population. The superintendent has the authority to exclude a staff member when reliable evidence or information from a qualified source confirms the staff member of having a potential communicable disease that is known to be spread by any form of casual contact and is considered a health threat to the school population. Such a student or staff member shall be excluded unless his/her physician approves school attendance and the condition is no longer considered contagious. If it is determined a student should not continue in school attendance, the superintendent will direct that homebound instruction be provided.

5.20.3.1 Reporting

All reportable communicable disease as outlined in Appendix C of the WV Department of Health Reportable Diseases Protocol Manual must be referred to the Marshall County Health Department

5.20.4 Handling

Irrespective of the disease presence, Standard Precautions shall be used and adequate sanitation procedures will be followed for handling blood or body fluids within the school setting or school busses. School personnel will be trained in the proper procedures for handling blood and body fluids and these procedures will be strictly adhered to by all school personnel.

5.20.5 Education

Instruction on the principle modes by which communicable diseases, including, but not limited to, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) are spread and the best methods for the restriction and prevention of these diseases shall be taught to students as outlined in West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2520.5, Health Content Standards and Objectives, and in-service education provided to all staff members as specified in 18-2-9 and 15-5-15d.

5.20.5.1 Exception to Instruction

An opportunity shall be afforded to the parent or guardian of a child subject to instruction in the prevention, transmission and spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases to examine the course curriculum requirements and materials to be used in such instruction. The parent or guardian may exempt such child from participation in such instruction by giving notice to that effect in writing to the school principal as set forth in WV Code 18-2-9

5.20.5.2 Hand Washing

Marshall County Schools will incorporate hand washing into the daily routine of students. It is best practice to wash the hands with soap and clean running water for twenty seconds. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based product to clean the hands may be used. An allowance for hand washing should be incorporated into the daily routine of all students before eating, after blowing the nose, coughing, or sneezing, and after going to the bathroom.

5.20.6 Confidentiality

All person's privileged with any medical information that pertains to students or staff members shall be required to treat all proceedings, discussions and documents as confidential information. Before any medical information is shared with anyone in the school setting a "legitimate educational reason" or "health or safety emergency situation" must exist. All other releases of confidential medical and health information shall be released only with the consent of the parent/guardian, student if 18, employee or their representative as outlined in

West Virginia Board of Education Policy 4350, Procedures for the Collection, Maintenance and Disclosure of Student Data, Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1988, and Family Education Rights and Privacy: Final Regulations. Part II, 34 CFR Part 99.

** Casual contact refers to day-to-day interaction between infected individuals and others in the home, at school, or in the workplace. It does not include intimate contact, such as sexual or drug use interactions, and it implies closer contact than chance passing on a street.