

PELHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY

EBCG – COMMUNICABLE & INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Category: Recommended

Related Policies: GBGA, IHAM, JLCA, JLCB & JLCG

As described in Board policy JLCG, RSA 200:39 permits the exclusion from school of students who exhibit symptoms of contagion, or are a hazard to him/herself or others. As provided in this policy, determinations as to inclusion or exclusion of students or employees with communicable diseases from school will take into account the educational implications for the student and others with whom he or she comes into contact, recommendations from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (“NH DHHS”), the New Hampshire Department of Education, and the United States Public Health Services Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”). Diseases which will implicate this policy, include, but are not necessarily limited to, HSV related diseases such as Chickenpox, Shingles, Hepatitis B, and Infectious Mononucleosis, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Cytomegalovirus (CMV), or Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV), and other diseases which are from time-to-time identified by public health agencies such as the CDC and NH DHHS.

Students and employees of the District are expected to attend the schools of the District without being infected with serious communicable diseases. Nonetheless, the Board recognizes that staff, students, volunteers and others may come in contact with bloodborne pathogens, viruses, and other communicable diseases during the school day or school sponsored activities, or may carry those pathogens, viruses and diseases unknowingly into the school community. The Board adopts this policy as a means to minimize risk and respond to these health concerns while respecting the rights of all students and employees including those who are infected.

1. Students

Students with communicable diseases should not be excluded from attending school in their regular classrooms so long as their attendance results in a situation where the risk of transmission of illness to students or employees of the School District, or hazard to themselves, is negligible. All decisions regarding inclusion or exclusion shall be made consistent with Policy JLCG.

2. Employees

Employees (which for the purposes of this policy will include individual consultants/contractors, and volunteers) with communicable diseases should not be excluded from attending to their customary employment and duties so long as they are physically able to perform tasks assigned to them and so long as their employment results in a situation where the risk of transmission of illness to students or other employees of the District, or hazard to themselves, is negligible.

3. Special Circumstances and Conditions

The School Board recognizes that some students or employees, because of age, disability or other special conditions, may pose greater risks for the transmission of communicable diseases than other persons infected with the same illness. Examples include children who display biting behavior and students and employees who are unable to control their body fluids or have uncovered wounds. These conditions need to be taken into account and considered in assessing the risk of transmission of the disease and the resulting effect upon the educational program of the student or employment of the employee.

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In the instance of diseases causing suppressed immunity, attendance may be denied to a child with suppressed immunity in order to protect the welfare of the child with suppressed immunity when others in the school have an infectious disease which, although not normally life threatening, could be life threatening to the child with suppressed immunity.

4. Implementation

The Superintendent is authorized to implement this policy through procedures, or administrative directives which s/he deems necessary or appropriate.

The Superintendent will develop and publish procedures for when communicable disease is suspected. This is to include reporting requirements, a response plan, decision making in regards to students and employees, testing, social distancing and other extraordinary measures, practices to minimize contamination in schools, confidentiality and data privacy, staff and student education.

District Policy History:

Adopted: May 24, 2023

Legal References:

RSA 189:1-a, Duty to Provide Education

RSA 189:31, Removal of Teacher

RSA 186-C, Special Education

RSA 193:1, Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil

RSA 193:3, Change of School or Assignment, Manifest Educational Hardship or Best Interest, Excusing Attendance

RSA 200:32, Physical Examination of Student

RSA 200:36, Medical Examination of School Personnel

RSA 200:39, Exclusion from School

NHDHHS Bureau of Infectious Diseases: “When Children Should be Excluded or Dismissed from a Childcare Setting,” may be found at:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/documents/childrendismissed.pdf>