



## **SECTION 1000: STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS**

### **POLICY 1060: COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND MEDICATIONS**

- *Date Adopted: November 20, 2013*
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#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Board endorses policy and procedures that help protect the health and well-being of students and staff.

#### **POLICY**

Every precaution will be taken to ensure that an individual's medical condition does not present a health and safety risk to students and staff. The Board supports appropriate procedures regarding infectious blood borne pathogens and immunizations, as described in the Regulations below.

The Board endorses the position of Northern Health that vaccines are among the safest and most cost effective tools available to protect our communities and our families from devastating illness.

The Board believes that all school-age children should be protected by immunization against all common, preventable diseases. British Columbia's publicly funded immunization program for school-aged children provides a variety of vaccines for protection against infectious diseases.

The Board recognizes that a student with an infectious blood borne-disease is entitled to an educational program and, insofar as it is possible and prudent, shall be treated as any other student with a medical condition. The student's personal physician shall be responsible for evaluating the student's health.

A Board employee with an infectious blood-borne disease shall be treated as would any other employee with a medical condition. The employee's personal physician shall be responsible for evaluating the employee's health.



## **POLICY** (continued)

Regarding students who require medication while they are at school, the Board believes that, except in emergency situations, principals or designates should administer (or supervise the self-administration of) medication to students only if the conditions identified under *Procedures for Administering Medication* are met.

## **REFERENCES**

- Northern Health website:
  - <http://www.northernhealth.ca/YourHealth/PublicHealth/ImmunizationandVaccines.aspx> accessed online March 16, 2013
- Province of British Columbia HealthLink BC website:
  - <http://www.healthlinkbc.ca>, Blood and Body Fluid Precautions accessed online March 27, 2016

## **REGULATIONS**

### **1. General Health and Safety Precautions**

- a. Wash hands effectively to avoid the spread of disease.
- b. Disinfect objects or surfaces which are visibly soiled with blood or body fluids by washing with soap and water and then disinfecting.
- c. Use gloves for contact with blood and/or body fluids.
- d. Use face masks for direct, sustained contact with coughs.
- e. Use a pocket mask with a disposable liner for mouth-to-mouth artificial respiration.
- f. Use disposable gowns if blood and/or body fluid soiling is likely.
- g. Use a disposable thermometer when required.

### **2. Procedures for Immunization**

- a. The Board expects parents to ensure that their children's immunizations are up to date before school entry and encourages parents to keep a record of their children's immunization.
- b. At school entry (4-6 years of age) students are offered vaccinations against:
  - i. Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis/Polio
  - ii. Chickenpox
  - iii. Any childhood vaccinations that may be overdue



## **2. Procedures for Immunization** *(continued)*

- c. Kindergarten immunizations are offered through Health Units. Information is sent home regarding dates and times.
- d. Grade 6 students are offered vaccinations against:
  - i. Hepatitis B
  - ii. Meningococcal C
  - iii. Chickenpox
  - iv. Human Papillomavirus (HPV) for girls
- e. Grade 9 students are offered vaccinations against:
  - i. Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis
  - ii. Human Papillomavirus (HPV) for girls
- f. For grade 6 and grade 9 students, immunizations are offered at school throughout the school year. Consent forms and information are sent home through the schools.
- g. The Board will cooperate with the local Health Unit in ensuring that regular immunization programs can take place at school for those students who need booster shots or who are unimmunized for particular diseases, provided that parent/guardian consent is obtained.
- h. The Board will support the pre-kindergarten registration form as requested by the local Health Unit and request that this form be submitted at the time of registration.

## **3. Procedures for Blood-Borne Diseases**

- a. A blood-borne disease is one that can be spread through contamination by blood or bodily fluids. These include HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and viral hemorrhagic fevers.
- b. Health and safety precautions for exposure to blood and bodily fluids, or while giving first aid, include:
  - i. Always wear gloves for handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids.
  - ii. Change your gloves after each use.



### **3. Procedures for Blood-Borne Diseases** *(continued)*

- iii. Wash your hands immediately after removing your gloves.
- iv. Wash your hands and other skin surfaces immediately after they come in contact with blood or bodily fluids.
- v. Wear a mask and protective eye wear if you are doing a procedure that may expose you to splashes or sprays of blood or bodily fluids.<sup>1</sup>

### **4. Procedures for Administering Medication**

- a. Except in emergency situations, principals or designates should administer (or supervise the self-administration of) medication to students only if the following conditions are met:
  - i. The medication must be required while the child is attending school.
  - ii. The parent or guardian has requested the school's assistance and has signed a *Letter of Authority – Medication* concerning administration by the teacher.
  - iii. Written authorization has been received from an attending physician.
  - iv. The Medic Alert card has been completed.
  - v. The principal or designate has received adequate instructions from appropriate medical personnel concerning the administration of the medication.
- b. Teachers should administer (or supervise the administration of) medication on a voluntary basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Government of British Columbia, HealthLink BC, accessed online March 27, 2013