

Infectious Diseases

The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) desires to protect students from risks posed by exposure to infectious diseases while providing an appropriate education for all students. SCOE recognizes that prevention and education are the most effective means of limiting the spread of infectious diseases.

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report to the local health officer the presence or suspected presence of any communicable disease. (17 CCR 2508)

Infectious Disease Prevention

The County Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with parents/guardians and local health agencies and organizations to develop a comprehensive approach to disease prevention that promotes preventative measures and education of students and staff.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review resources available from health experts to ensure that SCOE programs are based on the most up-to-date information.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that SCOE's comprehensive health education program provides information about the prevention of infectious diseases, including the nature of bloodborne pathogens and their transmission, as well as information to help prevent the spread of contagious diseases, such as a pandemic influenza. S/he shall also ensure that each school has sufficient infection prevention supplies that are easily accessible to staff.

Universal Precautions

Students and staff shall observe universal precautions in order to prevent exposure to bloodborne pathogens and to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform students of the precautions to be used in cases of exposure to blood or other body fluids through injury, accident, or classroom instruction.

Universal Precautions in the Classroom

Before students work with blood, blood products, or other body fluids, the teacher shall explain the potentially hazardous nature of blood and body fluids in the transmission of various agents from one person to another and the specific procedures and safety precautions to be used in the lesson.

The following precautions shall be used when students are working with blood or other body fluids:

1. Before and after exposure to blood or other body fluids, students shall wash their hands with soap and water and cover any existing cut, wound, or open sore with a sterile dressing.
2. Students shall wear gloves or other personal protective equipment as appropriate.
3. Blood typing or similar experiments may be conducted by teacher demonstrations. When being performed individually, students shall work with their own blood or use prepackaged ABO/Rh blood cell kits that have vials of blood previously tested for transmissible agents.
 - a. Students shall use individual sterile lancets for finger punctures and shall not reuse them.
 - b. Before the finger is punctured, it shall be wiped with a piece of cotton that has been immersed in alcohol.
 - c. If bleeding persists after the finger is punctured, the student shall apply a sterile bandage using moderate pressure.

Policy 5141.22 (Continued)

4. Lancets and any other materials contaminated with blood or body fluids shall be discarded into a solution consisting of one part bleach to 10 parts water (1:10), made fresh daily.
5. At the end of the class, surfaces shall be wiped with alcohol or a solution of one part bleach to 10 parts water.

Students with Infectious Diseases

The Superintendent or designee shall exclude students only in accordance with law, SCOE policy, and administrative regulation. Because bloodborne pathogens such as hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are not casually transmitted, the presence of infectious conditions of this type is not, by itself, sufficient reason to exclude students from attending school.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to inform the Superintendent or designee if their child has an infectious disease so that school staff may work cooperatively with the student's parents/guardians to minimize the child's exposure to other diseases in the school setting. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that student confidentiality rights are strictly observed in accordance with law.

Confidentiality of Records

It is SCOE's policy to ensure that all rights to confidentiality are strictly observed in accordance with law. No SCOE employee shall release medical information, including knowledge of a bloodborne pathogen infection, without written consent from the parent/guardian. Such information may be shared only with those persons specifically named in the written permission.

Procedure for Students with Communicable Conditions other than HIV/AIDS

1. When a child is identified as having a communicable condition or it is reasonably suspected that s/he does:
 - a. Determine if there is a procedure and response in place for this condition.
If yes, the nurse, teacher, and administrator will coordinate the implementation of the standard procedure.
 - b. When the child returns to or is enrolled in school:
If there is no current response or procedure in place, the child is excluded from the classroom program while the following occurs:
 - (1) The nurse contacts child's physician (with parental consent) for information, suggestions, recommendations regarding risk factors, management, and appropriate precautions for the condition.
 - (2) The nurse contacts the County Public Health Officer to confirm and clarify the recommendations of the child's physician.
 - (3) The nurse may contact the State Health Department or other resources for clarification if s/he deems necessary.
 - (4) A written statement from the child's physician and/or the Public Health Officer regarding recommendations for the health management of the student in the school program is obtained prior to the child returning to school.
 - (5) The nurse determines the risk of exposure to other students and staff and shares this information with the program administrator and the teacher.

Policy 5141.22 (Continued)

- (6) If the risk of exposure is too great or unclear, further involvement of the health department or outside physician will be sought.
- (7) If the risk of exposure is determined to be unmanageable, appropriate steps will be taken to place the student in an appropriate educational setting.
- (8) If the risk of exposure is determined to be manageable, staff training is implemented and the school, classroom, and transportation are prepared for the return of the student based on the nurse's recommendations.
- (9) The student returns to school.

Confidentiality

Staff involved with the student will be informed of the condition and of the appropriate precautions to be utilized. The staff members must keep this information confidential. Families of other children in the room will only be informed based on medical recommendations.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 48210-48216 Persons excluded
- 49073-49079 Privacy of pupil records
- 49403 Cooperation in control of communicable disease and immunization of pupils
- 49405 Smallpox control
- 49406 Examination for tuberculosis (employees)
- 49408 Information of use in emergencies
- 49451 Parents' refusal to consent to medical exam
- 49602 Confidentiality of student information
- 51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

- Article 1, Section 1 Right to Privacy

CIVIL CODE

- 56-56.37 Confidentiality of Medical Information Act
- 1798-1798.76 Information Practices Act

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

- 199.20 Prohibition against compelling identification of AIDS test subjects
- 199.21 Unauthorized disclosures
- 199.24 Disclosure to certain persons without written consent
- 120230 Exclusion for communicable disease
- 120325-120380 Immunization against communicable diseases
- 120875-120895 AIDS information
- 120975-121022 Mandated blood testing and confidentiality to protect public health
- 121475-121520 Tuberculosis tests for pupils

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 8

- 5193 California bloodborne pathogens standard

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 17

- 2500-2511 Communicable disease reporting requirements

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

- 1232g Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act
- 1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

OFFICE OF THE SOLANO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Policy 5141.22 (Continued)

Legal Reference: (Continued)

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 45

164.500-164.534 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

COURT DECISIONS

Thomas v. Atascadero Unified School District, (1987) 662 F.Supp. 376

Policy Cross-Reference:

1020 Youth Services

3516 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan

4119.23 Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information

4119.42 Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens

4119.43 Universal Precautions

5022 Student and Family Privacy Rights

5112.2 Exclusions from Attendance

5125 Student Records

5141 Health Care and Emergencies

5141.21 Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions

5141.24 Specialized Health Care Services

5141.26 Tuberculosis Testing

5141.3 Health Examinations

5141.31 Immunizations

5141.32 Health Screening for School Entry

5141.6 Student Health and Social Services

5142 Safety

5145.6 Parental Notifications

6142.1 Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction

6142.8 Comprehensive Health Education

6142.93 Science Instruction

6159 Individualized Education Program

6164.6 Identification and Education Under Section 504