COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The district is required to provide educational services to all school age children who reside within its boundaries. By law admission to school may be denied to any child diagnosed as having a disease or carrying a disease-causing agent whose attendance could be harmful to the welfare of other students, subject to the district’s legal responsibilities to children with disabilities. However, any decision to deny admission shall be based upon reasonable medical judgment.

Communicable diseases may be divided into two categories, those that are readily transmissible in the school environment and those that are not. Readily transmissible diseases include influenza, common colds, and other respiratory infections. Although the incidence of serious or life-threatening illnesses that are readily transmissible in the school environment is quite low, diseases that are transmitted by airborne droplet, such as measles, active tuberculosis and whooping cough (pertussis), can pose a serious threat to the health of students and staff. There are other serious or life-threatening illnesses that are caused by blood-borne or sexually transmitted infectious agents, such as acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or hepatitis B, which are not readily transmissible in the school environment.

Management of common readily transmissible communicable diseases shall be in accordance with Colorado Department of Health guidelines. A student who exhibits symptoms of a readily transmissible communicable disease may be temporarily excluded from school attendance. Parents are requested to keep such students home until the risk of transmission in the school environment is passed and the child can participate in school activities again. When a student cannot attend school due to illness, the parents should follow individual building procedures for reporting such absences. Students who complain of illness at school may be referred to the school nurse and may be sent home as soon as the parents or their representative(s) have been notified. The district reserves the right to require a physician’s statement authorizing the student’s return to school.

Standard safety and health practices appropriate for protecting against transmission of diseases shall be applied under circumstances where any student requires first aid, regardless of health status. Handling of body fluids and substances shall be accomplished in accordance with Policy EBBC. All body fluids and substances should be treated as infectious.

Student health records and information are confidential. Student health information, including infection and suspected infection with a disease-causing agent, shall not be disclosed except in accordance with this policy and accompanying administrative procedures. In all circumstances, disclosure of information regarding a student’s illness or health status shall be limited to those individuals whose knowledge is necessary to protect the safety and health of the child or others. In most cases, such protection may be accomplished effectively without disclosing the identity of the child affected with a disease.

Adopted prior to 1985
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Legal refs.: 20 U.S.C., §1232 (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
20 U.S.C., §1401 et seq. (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004)
42 U.S.C., §12101, et seq. (Americans with Disabilities Act)
C.R.S. 22-20-101 et seq., (Exceptional Children's Education Act)
C.R.S. 22-33-104 (2) (a) (compulsory attendance law—absence due to illness)
C.R.S. 22-33-106 (2) (b) (grounds for expulsion)
C.R.S. 25-4-1401, et seq.

Cross refs.:
EBBA Handling Body Fluids
IHBA, Programs for Handicapped Students
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities
JF, School Admissions
JHD, Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
JLCA, Physical Examinations of Students
JRA/JRC, Student Records
JRCA*, Sharing of Student Records/Information with Other Agencies

Note: See Colorado Department of Health guidelines, "Infectious Disease Flip Chart for School Personnel," available in each school building.