

## **Communicable/Infectious Diseases**

Mapleton Public Schools (the “District”) recognizes that there are many communicable diseases which may affect students, ranging from common childhood diseases, acute and short-term in nature, to chronic, life-threatening diseases such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. While the District is required to provide educational services to all school age children who reside within its boundaries, admission to school may be legally denied to any child diagnosed with a disease whereby attendance could be harmful to the welfare of staff or other students.

The District will rely on the advice of the medical community in assessing the risk of transmission of various communicable diseases to determine how best to protect the health of students and staff.

Management of common communicable diseases will be in accordance with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment or local public health department guidelines. A student who exhibits symptoms of a readily-transmissible communicable disease may be temporarily excluded from school attendance. Students who complain of illness at school may be referred to the school nurse and may be sent home by the school director as soon as the parent/guardian or person designated on the student’s emergency medical authorization form has been notified. The District reserves the right to require a physician’s statement authorizing the student’s return to school.

In all proceedings related to this policy, the District will respect the student’s right to privacy.

When information is received by a staff member or volunteer that a student is affected with a serious, readily-transmissible disease, the staff member or volunteer will promptly notify the school nurse or the school director to determine the appropriate measures to protect the student and staff health and safety. The school director, after consultation with the student and the student’s parent/guardian, will determine which additional staff members, if any, need to know of the affected student’s condition and whether the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment or the local public health department must be notified. Only those staff members with direct responsibility for the care of the student will be informed of the specific nature of the condition if it is determined that there is a need for such individuals to know this information.

All District staff must comply with the District’s policies and regulations to ensure that all student medical information is held in strict confidence. Any staff member who violates confidentiality will be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures.

*Adopted September 24, 2013, by the Board of Education for Mapleton Public Schools.  
Revised August 25, 2020.*

LEGAL REFERENCES:

C.R.S. § 22-33-104(2)(a) (*compulsory school attendance exception for students who are temporarily ill and such absence is excused*)

C.R.S. § 22-33-106(2) (*denial of admission permitted when a student has a “disease causing the attendance of the child suffering therefrom to be inimical to the welfare of other pupils”*)

CROSS REFERENCES:

EBBA: Prevention of Disease/Infection Transmission (Handling Body Fluids)

IC/ICA: School Year/School Calendar/Instructional Time

JLCA: Physical Examinations of Students

JLCCA: Students with HIV/AIDS

JLCE: First Aid and Emergency Medical Care

JRA/JRC: Student Records/Release of Information on Students