

Students

Prevention of Disease Transmission in School

The New Haven Board of Education recognizes that all children residing in New Haven have a right to an appropriate educational program. The Board also recognizes that it has a responsibility to assure that the public schools provided a safe environment for all of its students and employees.

The procedures for dealing with those students having communicable diseases or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or AIDS Related Complex (ARC) or positive Human Immune Deficiency (HIV) anti-body test results are outlined in the accompanying regulations. These regulations:

1. Assure that each afflicted child receives a public education in accord with current law;
2. Provide information for parents, faculty members and other concerned persons regarding the actual or potential dangers of transmission of disease;
3. Are based upon the best medical knowledge currently available;
4. Place restrictions upon a child only to the extent necessary to minimize the risk of transmitting or contracting disease;
5. Offer maximum protection for the health of others; and
6. Offer maximum possible protection of the rights of privacy of each afflicted child.

This policy and regulation shall be brought before the Board of Education for review as developments in the fields of medicine and law dictate and, in any event within one (1) year from the date this policy is adopted.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-210 Notice of disease to be given parent or guardian.
19-13A 8 (a-j)

Policy adopted: August 14, 1995

NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Haven, Connecticut

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All staff will give a copy of this policy and regulation annually.

Reporting of Communicable Diseases

The school nurse will report cases of communicable diseases to the City of New Haven Health Department and the principal of the school. The principal shall report to the Superintendent all cases of communicable diseases that come to his/her attention.

Staff members shall be instructed to report to the school nurse and the principal, those students who are suspected of having a communicable disease. They shall also provide any information they may have concerning a possible outbreak of a communicable disease in the community.

Standard Procedures for Handling Body Fluid

The following procedures/precautions shall routinely be used throughout the school system to minimize the risks of transmission of communicable disease. These guidelines provide simple and effective precautions for all person, including pregnant women potentially exposed to the body fluids of any student. They will be updated as new information and recommendations are available from the State Department of Health, Division of Epidemiology.

"Body Fluids" applies to blood, drainage from scrapes and cuts, feces, urin, vomitus, saliva and drainage from any orifice (i.e. nose, ears).

Principle 1: Direct skin contact with body fluids of others shall be avoided when possible.

- A. Gloves shall routinely be worn when direct hand contact with body fluids is anticipated; treating bloody noses, do hemocrits, handling clothes soiled by incontinence or vomit, cleaning small spills by hand, etc.
- B. Gloves and other materials used for this purpose shall be put in red plastic bag. Plastic bags shall be changed according to OSHA guidelines.
- C. Gloves shall be kept in all areas of high risk, e.g. health room, cafeteria, maintenance areas, main office, and in every classroom.

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Principle 1 (continued)

- D.** All student shall be taught to handle their own "body fluids" as appropriate (for age, state of health, etc.). When feasible, students shall dispose of won tissues after blowing nose, apply pressure to nose and dispose of tissues/paper towels used for bloody nose, wash own scraptes/cuts, etc.
- E.** Students shall be taught good hand wasing techniques and encourage to use it routinely - before eating, after toileting, after vomiting, tec.

Principle 2: When direct skin contact or contamination of materials occur from unatnciapted skin contact with body fluids (helping a child in the bathroom, vomiting, etc.) proposed cleaning technique shall be followed:

- A.** Hands and other affected skin areas of exposed persons shall routinely be washed with soap and warm water after contact. Liquid soap dispensed from a wall dispenser is preferable to bar soap -- especially bar soap which sits in a pool of water.
- B.** Clothing items that are soaked throughout t the skin shall be removed, placed in plastic bag and sent home for laundering. Items laundered for school use, or in school, shall be washed in hot water cycle (160 degrees F) before reuse. One cup of bleach added to the wash is recommended when feasible.
- C.** Contaminated disposable items tissues, paper towels, diapers) shall be handled with disposable gloves.

Principle 3: Spilled body fluids shall be removed from the environment by proper cleaning technique:

- A.** Grossly contaminated environmental surfaces shall be thoroughly cleaned with a freshly prepared solution containing one cup of household bleach per gallon of water. A germicide can be substituted if a bleach solution is unavailable. Disposable gloves shall be worn.
- B.** Wastes and disposable cleaning liquid shall be placed in a toilet or plastic bag as appropriate.
- C.** Non-disposable cleaning equipment (mops, buckets) shall be thoroughly rinsed in a bleach solution (as above). The bleach solution shall be disposed of promptly down a drain pipe.

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Principle 3 (continued)

- D. Maintenance responsibilities shall include daily cleaning with bleach or germicide as indicated above all areas of high risk for contact with body fluids such as the health room toilets(s), sink(s), student and staff lavatories, etc. Plastic bags shall also be changed daily and disposed of routinely; disposable gloves shall be worn.
- E. Spilled body fluids on carpet shall be disposed of by routine use of moisture absorbent which is then swept/vacuumed, followed by washing carpet with carpet cleaner.

Principle 4: All school staff shall be aware of appropriate handling of body fluids.

- A. At least annually, the school nurse shall provide information to all staff working in the schools regarding appropriate handling of body fluids. This information will be given at a faculty meeting and/or at a meeting set up for non-teaching staff.