

Students

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Governing Board desires to protect students from risks posed by exposure to infectious diseases while providing a high-quality education for all students. The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local and state health officials to develop and regularly update a comprehensive plan for disease prevention that promotes preventative measures, mitigation, education, communication, and training of students and staff. All measures to limit the spread of infectious diseases shall be nondiscriminatory and ensure that equity is promoted.

(cf. 0400 - Comprehensive Plans)
(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 0415 - Equity)
(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)
(cf. 5141.21 - Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions)
(cf. 5141.26 - Tuberculosis Testing)
(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)
(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)
(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)
(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

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

The district's comprehensive health education program shall provide age-appropriate information about the nature and symptoms of communicable diseases, their transmission, and how to help prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

(cf. 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)
(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

If the local health officer notifies the district of an outbreak of a communicable disease, or the imminent and proximate threat of a communicable disease outbreak or epidemic that threatens the public's health, the district shall take any action that the health officer deems necessary to control the spread of the disease. The district shall comply with all applicable state and federal privacy laws in regard to any such information received from the local health officer. (Health and Safety Code 120175.5)

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

(cf. 4119.42/4219.42/4319.42 - Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens)
(cf. 4119.43/4219.43/4319.43 - Universal Precautions)

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES (continued)

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.

(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

The Superintendent or designee shall exclude students only in accordance with law, Board 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.

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

Parents/guardians are encouraged to inform the Superintendent or designee if their child has an infectious disease so 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.

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)

(cf. 5022 - Student and Family Privacy Rights)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Legal Reference: (next page)

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

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

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

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

Management Resources: (next page)

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Science Safety Handbook for California Public Schools, 2014

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

School District (K-12) Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Department of Health Services: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov>

Policy

adopted: February 23, 1999

revised: August 22, 2000

revised: October 28, 2008

revised: March 9, 2021

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visalia, California

Students**INFECTIOUS DISEASES****Prevention and Mitigation Plan**

The Superintendent or designee shall work with state and local health officials to develop and regularly update a plan to prevent and mitigate the spread of infectious diseases. Components of the plan may include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. A communication strategy for informing students, parents/guardians, staff, and the community about the disease(s), including symptoms, complications, transmission, and current recommendations from state and local departments of public health
2. Protocols for assessing when campus closures are necessary and when campus(es) may reopen
3. Alternative means of instruction, schedules, and attendance, including the provision of instruction to students with disabilities, English learners, and foster or homeless youth, in the event of campus closures or partial closures

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

(cf. 6112 - School Day)

(cf. 6157 - Distance Learning)

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Youth)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

(cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)

(cf. 6183 - Home and Hospital Instruction)

4. Guidelines regarding preventative measures such as social distancing, personal protective equipment, temperature checks, and/or any other health screening allowed by law
5. Protocols regarding the acquisition and provision of personal protective equipment and other supplies
6. Procedures for the cancellation or alteration of extracurricular activities and field trips

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

(cf. 6153 - School-Sponsored Trips)

7. Protocols for transportation of students using district vehicles

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (continued)

(cf. 3540 - Transportation)

(cf. 3543 - Transportation Safety and Emergencies)

8. Information on effective hygiene practices
9. Provisions for continuing free and reduced-price meal services

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

10. Processes for protecting students who are at higher risk from the disease
11. Programs that enhance a positive school climate and foster the emotional well-being of all students

(cf. 5141.5 - Mental Health)

(cf. 5141.52 - Suicide Prevention)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

12. Guidelines for cleaning and sanitization of district facilities and equipment

(cf. 3510 - Green School Operations)

(cf. 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances)

13. Protocols for visitors and outside groups that utilize district facilities
14. Staff training

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

Universal Precautions in the Classroom

Before students of medical professional programs 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:

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (continued)

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.

(cf. 5142 - Safety)

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. For finger punctures, students shall use individual sterile lancets that have engineered sharps injury protection 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.
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 district approved disinfectant cleanser or a solution of one part bleach to 10 parts water.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (continued)

(cf. 4119.42/4219.42/4319.42 - Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens)

(cf. 4119.43/4219.43/4319.43 - Universal Precautions)

(cf. 5022 - Student and Family Privacy Rights)

(cf. 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)

Regulation
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VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California