

BLOOD BORNE CONTAGIOUS OR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The attendance at school of students who suffer from blood borne diseases which are infectious or contagious, such as AIDS and Hepatitis B, and which may be transmitted by the exchange of body secretions, shall be determined by the superintendent on a case-by-case basis. The superintendent shall obtain the advice of the local department of health to assist him/her in making his/her determination. The student may be excluded from school and school-related functions pending the superintendent's decision. The superintendent shall issue regulations setting forth the procedures to be followed to effectuate this policy.

The identity of a student who has tested positive for human immunodeficiency virus shall be confidential in accordance with state law.

An alternative educational program shall be made available to any student whose removal pursuant to this policy is expected to result in a prolonged absence from school or where otherwise required by law.

Training in the use of universal precautions for handling blood shall be conducted periodically in accordance with state and federal law. Universal precautions for handling blood shall be implemented within the school setting and on buses in accordance with state and federal law and guidelines.

The School Board shall adopt guidelines for school attendance for children with human immunodeficiency virus. Such guidelines shall be consistent with the model guidelines for such school attendance developed by the Board of Education.

Adopted: September 8, 1997
Revised: February 11, 2004
Revised: April 7, 2005

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, sections 22.1-271.3, 32.1-36.1, 32.1-45.2.

Model Guidelines for School Attendance for Children with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (Attachment to Virginia Department of Education Superintendent's Memo #32 (Feb. 13, 2004)).

Cross Ref: EBAB Possible Exposure to Viral Infections
EBBB Personnel Training—Viral Infections
IGBG Homebound, Correspondence, and Alternative Means of Instruction
JHCCA-E Guidelines for School Attendance for Students with Human Immunodeficiency Virus

BLOOD BORNE CONTAGIOUS OR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Guidelines for Pupils with Human Immunodeficiency Virus

The Patrick County Public Schools will work cooperatively with the Patrick County Health Department to ensure compliance with Virginia Code 22.1-271.3 for school attendance of children infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

- A. Students are expected to be in compliance with immunization schedule Article 2, 22.1-271.2; however, some required immunizations may be harmful to the health of the student who is HIV infected or has AIDS. Students who are HIV infected or have AIDS may get an exemption from complying with the requirements (Virginia Code 22.1 27.2, C). School personnel will cooperate with public health personnel in completing and coordinating immunization data, exemptions, and exclusions, including immunization forms.
- B. Mandatory screening for HIV infection is not warranted as a condition for school entry. Upon learning a student is HIV infected or has AIDS, the superintendent will consult with the individual's family and physician or a health official from the local health department to determine whether the student is well enough to stay in school. Since it is known that HIV is not transmitted through casual contact, any student who is HIV infected will continue education in a regular classroom assignment unless the health status interferes significantly with performance. If a change in a student's program is necessary, the superintendent or designee, family and physician or health official will develop an individual plan which is medically, legally and educationally sound. If the HIV student is receiving special education services, the services will be in agreement with established policies. (See Policy 9-7)
- C. Parents/guardians may appeal decisions for restriction or exclusions as determined by the school division's established procedures.
- B. All persons privileged with any medical information about HIV infected students shall be required to treat all proceedings, discussions, and documents as confidential information. Individuals will be informed of the situation on a "Need to Know" basis with written consent of the parent/guardian.
- C. Universal precautions for handling blood will be implemented within the school setting on buses. To ensure implementation of the proper standard operating procedures for all body fluids, the guidelines from the Virginia Department of Health will be followed. In-service training will be provided to all school personnel.

Training will include local division policies; etiology, transmission, prevention, and risk reduction of HIV; standard operating procedures for handling blood and body fluids; and community resources available for information and referral. Periodic updates will be supplied through in-service or memoranda.

D. Comprehensive and age-appropriate instruction on the principal modes by which HIV is spread and the best methods for the reduction of prevention of AIDS are required to encourage the support and protections of the HIV infected student. To enhance school attendance, the school division will collaborate with public and private organizations in the provision of support services to HIV infected students.

Adopted: September 8, 1997

GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS

The Patrick County School Board recognizes its dual obligations to protect the rights of individual students infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and to provide a safe environment for students, staff, and the public. Because HIV is not transmitted through casual contact, any student who is HIV-infected will continue in a regular classroom assignment unless the student's health significantly interferes with his or her ability to benefit from the educational program.

Patrick County Public Schools will work cooperatively with the local health department with regard to the school attendance of students infected with HIV. To enhance the school attendance of students who are HIV-infected, the school division will collaborate with public and private organizations in the provision of support services to HIV-infected students.

All students are expected to satisfy the immunization requirements of Virginia Code § 22.1-271.2 unless a required immunization would be harmful to the health of the student. Students who are HIV-infected or have acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) may be exempted from obtaining immunizations which would otherwise be required. School personnel will cooperate with public health personnel regarding exemptions from the requirements.

Mandatory screening for HIV infection is not warranted as a condition of school attendance. Upon learning that a student is HIV-infected or has AIDS, the division superintendent may consult with the student's family, the student's family physician, or an official from the local department of health to determine whether the student is well enough to stay in school. If a change in the student's program is necessary because of the student's health, the division superintendent or designee will work with the student's family, family physician or local health official to develop an educational plan for the student.

Any school board employee or volunteer who has any information regarding a student's HIV-infected status will treat that information as confidential. Division personnel will share information regarding a student's HIV status only with the written consent of the student's parent or guardian.

Despite the extremely remote risk that exposure of skin to blood could result in infection, the following universal precautions for handling blood will be implemented within schools and on school buses:

- persons involved in cleaning surfaces exposed to blood and persons rendering first aid to bleeding students should wear disposable gloves to avoid exposure of open skin lesions and mucous membranes to blood;
- surfaces contaminated with blood should be promptly cleaned with household bleach (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) using disposable towels and tissues;
- hands must be washed after gloves are removed;
- if one person's skin is exposed to the blood of another person, the exposed areas should be washed with soap and water.

Universal precautions do not apply to feces, nasal secretions, saliva, sputum, sweat, tears, urine, and vomitus unless they contain blood.

To ensure implementation of the proper procedures for all body fluids, training will be provided to all school personnel. Training will include information regarding the following: etiology, transmission, prevention, and risk reduction of HIV; standard procedures for handling blood and body fluids; community resources available for information and referral; and local division policies.

Comprehensive and age-appropriate instruction on the principal modes by which HIV is spread and the best methods for the reduction and prevention of AIDS will be provided.

Adopted: September 8, 1997
