

Living Sky School Division No. 202

Administrative Procedure (AP) Manual



Procedure Name: Communicable Diseases

Procedure Type:	School Operations	Implementation Date:	NOV 10, 2010
Procedure Number:	4.24	Last Approval Date:	MAR 6, 2026
AP Owner:	Superintendent of Learning	Last Reviewed:	MAR 6, 2026
Legal Reference(s):	<i>The Education Act, 1995, s. 85, 141, 175, 231</i> <i>The Public Health Act, 1994, s. 32, 33, 44, 45</i> <i>The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020, s. 3-4, 3-10</i>		

Background

Living Sky School Division (LSKYSD) is committed to ensuring safe, positive learning and work environments. All Division employees have a pivotal role in preventing the spread of disease and infections in the workplace.

Scope of Impact

This procedure applies to the operation of all LSKYSD schools.

Definitions:

Carrier is a person who, without apparent symptoms of a communicable disease, harbours and may spread an infectious disease.

Communicable Disease is an infection in humans that is caused by an organism or micro-organism or its toxic products and is transmitted directly or indirectly from an infected person or animal or from the environment. The Public Health Act, 1994 and The Disease Control Regulations identify different categories of communicable diseases that require different responses.

- **Category I** communicable diseases include, among others, those that are common and can often cause large outbreaks. These include Pertussis, Measles, Hepatitis A, influenza, covid, etc.
- **Category II** communicable diseases include diseases include Tuberculosis, Hepatitis (B, C and D), Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD's), and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

Contact is a person that has likely been infected or exposed to infection by a communicable disease.

Epidemic refers to a widespread occurrence of a communicable disease in a community at a particular time.

Roles and Responsibilities

Director

- is authorized to prescribe practices and procedures to ensure acceptable standards of safety, health and sanitation

Superintendent

- will act as a liaison between the principal and Public Health

Principal

- is responsible for the safety of staff and students in the school



Procedure

General

1. The health, safety, well-being and privacy rights of students and employees shall be duly considered in all educational and work environments.
2. Compliance with *The Public Health Act, 1994* and the Disease Control Regulations is mandatory. In the case of a serious public health threat that is a communicable disease, the minister may make an order for a pupil or pupils to be excluded from school until the danger of infection has passed.

Category I Communicable Diseases

3. The *Public Health Act, 1994* prescribes that principals of a school who becomes aware that a pupil is infected with or is a carrier of a Category I communicable disease shall report this incident to their local Medical Health Officer/Public Health not later than 48 hours after the teacher or principal becomes aware.
4. **Exceptions** to this are suspected or confirmed cases of influenza and covid. Principals shall report to their school superintendent only if there are high absenteeism rates due to suspected influenza or covid. Category I communicable diseases typically result in students being sent home from school for a period of time as directed by Public Health. Details of the course of action will be shared with parents by the school.

Category II Communicable Diseases

5. Principals of a school who becomes aware that a pupil is infected with or is a carrier of a Category II communicable disease shall report this incident to the superintendent who shall inform the local Medical Health Officer or designate.
6. The local Medical Health Officer or designate shall be requested to consult with the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) and the attending physician.
7. When a communicable disease is confirmed, the local Medical Health Officer or designate shall communicate with the superintendent regarding next steps. Dissemination of information regarding the infected pupil shall be determined in consultation with the local Medical Officer or the Public Health nurse responsible for Communicable Diseases. Such health information as is held by the Division will be treated in confidence and not shared without the written consent of the parent or guardian.
8. A student infected with a Category II communicable disease **shall not** be excluded from the regular educational program except on the recommendation of the director following consultation with the Medical Health Officer and the student's attending physician.
9. When an infected student is excluded from school, every attempt shall be made to provide an alternate educational program. Decisions regarding appropriate educational settings shall be made on a case-by-case basis.

Other

10. Head lice are not considered to be a communicable disease. Children who present with a case of head lice do not need to be excluded from school or transportation.



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Related

Communicable Disease Protocol (*internal document*)