

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Background

The management of communicable diseases in Alberta schools is directed by Alberta Health Services (AHS) and other provincial health authorities under the *Public Health Act* and related legislation. School divisions must follow all guidance, directives, and orders issued by these authorities.

Procedures

1. Direction from Health Authorities

- 1.1 All decisions regarding the management of communicable diseases, including student or staff exclusion, return to school/work, and outbreak protocols, will be made in accordance with directives from Alberta Health Services or other authorized provincial health officials.
- 1.2 The Division cannot make independent determinations outside of these directives.

2. Attendance and Participation

- 2.1 Students and staff may attend school or work unless AHS or another authorized health official directs otherwise.
- 2.2 Any special conditions for attendance will be determined by AHS.

3. Privacy and Confidentiality

- 3.1 The privacy of students and staff with communicable diseases will be respected and protected in accordance with the *Protection of Privacy Act* (POPA), the *Access to Information Act* (ATIA), and the *Health Information Act* (HIA).
- 3.2 Information will only be shared with those who need to know to provide appropriate programs, supports, or services.

4. Employee Provisions

- 4.1 Employees unable to work due to communicable disease will have access to sick leave, disability benefits, and other entitlements as outlined in applicable agreements and benefit plans.

5. Occupational Health and Safety

- 5.1 Any exposure to communicable diseases in the workplace will be managed according to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, regulations, and codes.

Adopted/Revised/Reviewed: JUN 2016/NOV 2019/AUG 2025/SEP 2025/MAR 2026

References: *Education Act* S. 11, 33, 52, 53, 196, 197, 222
Public Health Act (PHA)
Protection of Privacy Act (POPA)
Access to Information Act (ATIA)
Health Information Act (HIA)
Occupational Health and Safety Act (OH & S)
Emergency Medical Aid Act
Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Communicable Disease Regulation (AR 238/85)
Ministerial Directive 4.1.1. – HIV/AIDS in Educational Settings
Board Policy 11 – Board Delegation of Authority
Board Policy 12 – Role of the Superintendent
Board Policy 19 – Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environment
Administrative Procedure 160 - Health and Safety of Students and Staff
Administrative Procedure 161 - Appendix A – Prevention of Blood Borne Diseases
Administrative Procedure 161 - Appendix B – Blood and Body Fluid Clean Up Protocol