



*"Inspire learners, Integrate sustainability,  
Involve community"*

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## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64

### PROCEDURE 3120 Communicable Diseases

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Section: Health and Safety

Dates of Revisions:

Date of Adoption and

Resolution Number: June 13, 2018- 76/18

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1. Communicable diseases are diseases that can be passed between people through proximity, social contact or intimate contact. These include but are not limited to influenza (the flu), measles, mumps, whooping cough or tuberculosis. (Note: head lice infestation is not a communicable disease.)
2. For the purposes of this procedure, and in keeping with provisions in the Public health Act and the School Act, the Superintendent of Schools
  - a. will serve as the district's school medical officer; and
  - b. acting in that capacity,
    - i. may examine or cause examinations to be made as to the general health of students of schools in the school district;
    - ii. may inspect and close a school when the health and safety of students is at risk;
    - iii. must, if he/she considers that the health condition of any student is such as to endanger the health or welfare of the students of a school or the employees of the board, so report to the Board, giving the name of the student concerned, for information in private session.
3. The board must promptly act on a report under subsection (2) and must remove from a school a student whose health condition is reported by the school medical officer as being dangerous.
4. In accordance with the School Act, when a student is suspected to be suffering from a communicable disease or other physical, mental, or emotional condition that would endanger the health or welfare of the other students, the procedures outlined below will be followed to medically exclude the student. Such exclusions are used rarely. They are most often applied when
  - a. the student and/or the student's family is unwilling to follow through on recommendations for medical intervention; or

- b. in the cases in which the student's behaviour is becoming progressively more dangerous.
- 5. Parents/guardians will be advised that a student who is removed from a school under subsection (3) must not be permitted to return to the school until he/she delivers to the Board a certificate signed by a private medical practitioner, a private nurse practitioner, or the school medical officer permitting the student to return to the school because the student's behaviour or condition no longer endangers the health or welfare of other students or Board employees.
- 6. If a teacher, principal, vice principal or director of instruction suspects a student is suffering from a communicable disease or other physical, mental or emotional condition that would endanger the health or welfare of the other students, the teacher, the principal, the vice principal or the director of instruction
  - a. must report the matter to the school principal and to the Superintendent of Schools/school medical health officer, and
  - b. may exclude the student from school until a certificate is obtained for the student from a private medical practitioner, a private nurse practitioner or the Superintendent of Schools/school medical officer
- 7. If a student is removed or excluded from school under subsection (3) or (5), the board must continue to make available to the student
  - a. if the student is enrolled in more than one educational program, the educational program for which the board is responsible; or
  - b. in any other case, an educational program; and
  - c. through the principal or designate, arrange for appropriate instruction support during the course of the student's exclusion.
- 8. In those instances where, in the opinion of a student's physician and the Superintendent of Schools/school medical health officer, a more restrictive educational environment may be required, circumstances are best determined by a team consisting of the student's physician, the student's parent or guardian, the appropriate school personnel and the Superintendent of Schools/school medical officer. Confidentiality of medical information and the child's right to privacy are required.
- 9. On the advice of the school medical officer, a board may, by notice to an employee of the board or to a contractor, require the employee or the contractor to undergo an examination
  - a. by a medical practitioner, and to submit to the school medical officer a certificate signed by the medical practitioner setting out the medical practitioner's conclusions regarding the physical, mental and emotional health of the employee or contractor, or

- b. by a qualified person designated by the Minister of Health, and to submit to the school medical officer a certificate signed by the person conducting the examination setting out the person's conclusions regarding the physical, mental and emotional health of the employee or contractor.
10. If an employee fails without reasonable excuse to take the examination required under subsection (9) within 14 days from the date of receiving notice from the board under that subsection, the board may summarily dismiss the employee.
11. If a certificate submitted to the school medical officer under subsection (9) shows that the physical, mental or emotional health of the employee examined is such as to endanger the health or welfare of the students of the school, the board must
  - a. suspend the employee and not permit the employee to return to his or her duties until the board receives from the employee a certificate signed by the school medical officer permitting the employee to return to his or her duties, and
  - b. if the employee is a certificate holder, report the circumstances to the commissioner.
12. An employee who fails to take an examination required under subsection (9) or who is suspended under subsection 11 (a) must not be offered or accept a position with a board or a francophone education authority until the employee submits to the board or francophone education authority a medical certificate satisfactory to the board or francophone education authority or, if the employee is a certificate holder, satisfactory to the director of certification.
13. An employee who is granted a superannuation allowance on medical evidence of total and permanent disability must not be offered or accept a position with a board or a francophone education authority until he or she submits to the minister a medical certificate, satisfactory to the minister, that the disability no longer exists.
14. If a contractor fails to take the examination required under subsection (2) within 14 days from the date of receiving notice from the board under that subsection, the board may require the person who entered into the contract with the board to provide a replacement contractor.
15. Expenses necessarily incurred by a board under this section must be included in the operating expenses of the board.

## References:

- *School Act*, Sec. 91 (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6)
- The Public Health Act
- Vancouver Coastal Health: <http://www.vch.ca/your-health/health-topics/communicable-diseases/>