



Durham Catholic District School Board

"The Board"

Policy

Title: Disease Management and Prevention	Policy #: PO408
Policy Area:	Operations
Source:	Superintendent of Education - Policy Development
Date Approved:	
Date of Amendments:	

1.0 Introduction

Consistent with our Gospel values, it is the responsibility of the Board to respect the dignity and worth of students and staff and to support their overall well-being irrespective of their personal circumstances, including their medical condition. The Board is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment in accordance with the Education Act, Health Protection and Promotion Act, Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Ontario Human Rights Code and the Occupational Health and Safety Act

2.0 Definitions

Communicable Disease - an infectious disease spread from one person or organism to another typically by direct contact.

Diseases of Public Significance - diseases that are reportable to the Durham Regional Health Department Medical Officer of Health governed by the Health Protection and Promotion Act (see appendix A).

3.0 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to highlight that the health and safety of all students and staff is the foremost priority of the Board and to provide a framework for board staff who support the management and prevention of infectious diseases in the workplace including schools and board office spaces. Additionally, this policy will identify which diseases are 'reportable' as mandated by the Durham Regional Health Department under the authority of the local Medical Officer of Health.

4.0 **Application/Scope**

This policy applies to all students and staff of the board.

5.0 **Principles**

5.1 The Board believes that:

- 5.1.1 All students have the right to be educated in an environment that is as safe as possible and that they have access to their medication as needed;
- 5.1.2 Parents/guardians and school staff must work together by communicating regularly and at least annually to review the medical needs of students.
- 5.1.3 All staff are entitled to work in a safe and healthy environment; and
- 5.1.4 Current and up-to-date information shared by parents, guardians and students and staff are essential in supporting a safe and healthy school and work environment and to support an emergency response in rare cases when a risk to public health is identified by Health authorities that requires immediate action.

6.0 **Requirements**

6.1 The Board shall:

- 6.1.1 Work in partnership with the Durham Region Health Department to support a healthy and safe learning and working environment for students and staff;
- 6.1.2 Promote 'Healthy Schools' initiatives to support the management of prevention of communicable diseases identified and known to exist in school settings as supported by the Durham Region Health Department;
- 6.1.3 Support mandatory immunization programs in schools offered by the Durham Region Health Department;
- 6.1.4 Support the role of the public health nurses who visit all Board schools; and
- 6.1.5 Cooperate with the Medical Officer of Health in the case of an emergency directive.

6.2 The Director of Education or designate shall:

- 6.2.1 Issue administrative procedures to support this policy and to amend them thereafter as the need may arise.

6.3 Superintendents shall:

- 6.3.1 Support the school principal with Durham Region Health Department contacts and resources as needed or requested;

- 6.3.2 In coordination with the Human Resources Department, and subject to any relevant provisions under the applicable Collective Agreements and Terms and Conditions of Employment, reassign staff who for safety reasons (i.e., Exposure to communicable disease that could put an employee at risk) need to be re-assigned to a different school setting; and
- 6.3.3 Work closely with the Durham Region Health Department and Medical Officer of Health in the case of an emergency situation that requires relocation of students and/or staff or the temporary closure of the school site
- 6.4 Principals shall:
- 6.4.1 Become familiar with the ‘Diseases of Public Health Significance’ that list ‘reportable diseases’ (see appendix 1);
- 6.4.2 Notify the Durham Region Health Department of diseases that are deemed ‘reportable’ (*‘who is of the opinion that a pupil in the school has or may have a communicable disease shall, as soon as possible after forming the opinion, report thereon to the medical officer of health unit in which the school is located’*) (RSO 1990, c.H7, s.28);
- 6.4.3 Work in partnership with public health nurses assigned to their school to assess the needs of the school, develop strategies to meet the school’s identified health needs and link school curriculum to healthy living and disease prevention;
- 6.4.4 Promote healthy school initiatives (e.g., Durham Region Health Department’s Healthy Schools: A Toolkit for creating a Healthy School Environment) to support the prevention of the spread of disease;
- 6.4.5 Work in collaboration with elementary and secondary school administrative assistants so that clear lines of communication are established between the school and the local health authority for the reporting of applicable communicable diseases, the scheduling of immunization clinics and for public health information sessions for students, parents and the greater community;
- 6.4.6 Follow a directive or order from the Medical Officer of Health or local authority related to a disease outbreak in their school when such officer or authority has determined that there is risk to health associated with the outbreak for students or staff; and
- 6.4.7 Confidentially notify their Family of Schools Superintendent if they have contracted a communicable disease that could put students or staff at risk (e.g., Fifth disease, Measles).
- 6.4.8 Post the current diseases of public health significance as updated annually by the Durham Regional Health Department on the school website.
- 6.4.9 Share best practices with parents/guardians in relation to disease management and prevention.
- 6.5 Teachers shall:
- 6.5.1 Communicate regularly with parents/guardians to promote open lines of communication related to their students’ health and well-being;

- 6.5.2 Report to the principal or designate details of any medical disclosures from students or their parents/guardians of any reportable communicable diseases;
 - 6.5.3 Collaborate with the local health nurse assigned to their school to promote the health and wellness of their students;
 - 6.5.4 Confidentially notify their principal or designate if they have contracted a communicable disease that could put students or staff at risk (e.g., Fifth disease, Measles);
 - 6.5.5 Participate in 'Healthy Schools' initiatives and teach the applicable Health and Physical Education curriculum if required for their teaching assignment;
 - 6.5.6 Encourage students to wash their hands as part of a daily routine;
 - 6.5.7 Become familiar with Lyme disease prevention especially if working in an outdoor environment.
 - 6.5.8 Post handwashing resource poster in their classroom as provided by the Board.
- 6.6 Parents/Guardians and adult students shall:
- 6.6.1 Inform school officials forthwith of any diagnosis of illness and/or communicable disease contracted by their child(ren) or themselves; and
 - 6.6.2 Follow directives from the local Officer of Health if it deemed that their child has been requested to remain at home because of a diagnosis of a communicable disease.
 - 6.6.3 Seek resources from the Durham Regional Health Department as needed to support disease management and prevention at <https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/fact-about.aspx>

7.0 Sources

- Health Protection and Promotion Act- (Ontario Reg.135/18)
- Immunization of School Pupils Act
- Education Act., sec 265 –Duties of Principal
- Regulation 298 s20 – Duties of Teachers
- Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- Durham Regional Health Department www.durham.ca (Appendix A used with permission)
- Durham Regional Health Department <https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/resources/Documents/SchoolHealth/schoolToolkit.pdf> (Healthy Schools Toolkit)
- Durham Regional Health Department <https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/fact-about.aspx>

Diseases of Public Health Significance

The following diseases are reportable to the local Medical Officer of Health (Ontario Reg. 135/18) under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. **Bolded** diseases must be reported **immediately**. All other diseases may be reported on the next work day.

Report diseases listed below to:

Population Health Division

605 Rossland Road East, 2nd Floor
PO Box 730
Whitby, ON L1N 0B2
Phone: 905-668-7711 ext. 2996 or 1-800-841-2729
Fax: 905-666-6215
After Hours: 905-576-9991 or 1-800-372-1104

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP)

Chancroid

Chickenpox (Varicella)

Chlamydia trachomatis infections

Diphtheria

Encephalitis, including:

1. Primary, viral
2. Post-infectious
3. Vaccine-related
4. Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis
5. Unspecified

Gonorrhoea

Group A Streptococcal disease, invasive

Group B Streptococcal disease, neonatal

Haemophilus influenzae disease, all types, invasive

Hepatitis, viral:

1. Hepatitis B
2. Hepatitis C

Measles

Meningitis, acute:

1. bacterial
2. viral
3. other

Meningococcal disease, invasive

Mumps

Ophthalmia neonatorum

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Pneumococcal disease, invasive

Poliomyelitis, acute

Rubella

Rubella, congenital syndrome

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

Smallpox

Syphilis

Tetanus

Tuberculosis

Report diseases listed below to:

Health Protection Division

101 Consumers Drive, 2nd Floor
Whitby, ON L1N 1C4
Phone: 905-723-3818 or 1-888-777-9613
Confidential Fax: 905-666-1833
After Hours: 905-576-9991 or 1-800-372-1104

Amebiasis

Anthrax

Blastomycosis

Botulism

Brucellosis

Campylobacter enteritis

Carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* (CPE), infection or colonization

Cholera

***Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI) outbreaks in public hospitals**

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, all types

Cryptosporidiosis

Cyclosporiasis

Echinococcus multilocularis

Food poisoning, all causes

Gastroenteritis, institutional outbreaks and public hospitals

Giardiasis, except asymptomatic cases

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome

Hemorrhagic fevers, including:

1. Ebola virus disease
2. Marburg virus disease
3. Lassa Fever
4. Other viral causes

Hepatitis A

Influenza

Legionellosis

Leprosy

Listeriosis

Lyme Disease

Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning

Paratyphoid Fever

Plague

Psittacosis/Ornithosis

Q Fever

Rabies

Respiratory infection outbreaks in institutions and public hospitals

Salmonellosis

Shigellosis

Trichinosis

Tularemia

Typhoid Fever

Verotoxin-producing *E. coli* infection indicator conditions, including Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)

West Nile Virus Illness

Yersiniosis