

POLICY – PO408

Disease Management and Prevention

Area: Operations

Source: Superintendent of Business, Finance and Facilities Services

Approved: May 6, 2019

Revised:

1. Introduction

Effective disease prevention and intervention policies are essential to creating a safe and healthy working and learning environment. The Durham Catholic District School Board (the “Board”) is committed to disease management and prevention in accordance with relevant legislation and consistent with the beliefs, traditions, and teachings of the Catholic Church.

2. Definitions

Communicable Disease (*Quarantine Act*) – a human disease that is caused by an infectious agent or a biological toxin and poses a risk of significant harm to public health, or a disease listed in the schedule, and includes an infectious agent that causes a communicable disease.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to promote a healthy and safe working and learning environment to prevent and manage communicable diseases.

4. Application / Scope

This policy applies to all students and staff of the board as well as the broader community that access Board facilities.

5. Principles

5.1 The Board recognizes that:

5.1.1 all students have the right to a safe and healthy learning environment;

- 5.1.2 all staff have the right to a safe and healthy working environment; and
- 5.1.3 the provision of information between parents/guardians, students, staff and public health regarding the prevention, identification and treatment of communicable diseases is integral to a co-ordinated response plan.

6. Requirements

- 6.1 The Director of Education or designate shall issue administrative procedures to support this policy and to amend them thereafter as the need may arise.
- 6.2 The Board shall:
 - 6.2.1 work in partnership with the Durham Region Health Department to support a healthy and safe learning and working environment for students and staff;
 - 6.2.2 promote 'healthy schools' initiatives to support the management of prevention and communicable diseases identified and known to exist in school settings as supported by the Durham Region Health Department;
 - 6.2.3 support mandatory immunization programs in schools offered by the Durham Region Health Department, in accordance with the Immunization of School Pupils Act;
 - 6.2.4 support the role of the Public Health Nurses who visit Board facilities;
 - 6.2.5 cooperate with the local Medical Officer of Health in the case of an emergency directive; and
 - 6.2.6 ensure that applicable staff become familiar with reportable diseases as identified by Public Health.

7. Sources

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

7.11 Quarantine Act

8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures

- 8.1 Disability Management Policy (PO312)
- 8.2 Disability Management Administrative Procedure (AP312-1)
- 8.3 Occupational Health and Safety Policy (PO318)
- 8.4 Disease Management and Prevention Administrative Procedure (AP408-1)