Infectious Diseases

In order to safeguard students in direct service programs operated in ESD facilities from the spread of certain communicable diseases, the Superintendent will implement procedures assuring compliance with State Board of Health rules and regulations regarding the presence of persons who have or have been exposed to infectious diseases deemed dangerous to the public health. Such procedures will also prescribe the steps to remove the danger to others.

ESD 112 program directors are authorized to exclude a student who has been diagnosed by a licensed health care provider (LHP) or is suspected of having an infectious disease in accordance with the guidance and regulations that are applicable to the ESD program, including the most current *Infectious Disease Control Guide for School Staff*, provided by the State of Washington Department of Health.

The program director or designee shall report the presence of suspected case or cases of reportable communicable disease to the appropriate local health jurisdiction as required by the State Board of Health. Such information concerning a student's present and past health condition shall be treated as confidential. Program directors shall cooperate with the local health officials in the investigation of the source of the disease.

ESD employees will comply with applicable state and federal law related to the confidentiality of student information and will not disclose protected information, except where disclosure of the information is authorized by law. If the ESD receives authorization to release information, or the law authorizes the ESD to release information, the ESD may disclose information pursuant to the restrictions in the release or applicable law.

A program director has the authority to send an ill student home, without the concurrence of the local health officer; but if the disease is reportable, the local health jurisdiction must be notified. The local health officer is the primary resource in the identification and control of infectious disease in community and program. The local health officer, in consultation with the Superintendent, can take whatever action deemed necessary to control or eliminate the spread of disease, including closing an ESD direct service program.

Legal References:	*Chapter 70.02 RCW Medical records — Health care information access and disclosure* *RCW 28A.210.010 Contagious diseases, limiting contact — Rules* *Chapter 246-110 WAC Contagious disease --School districts and day care centers* *RCW 70.24.290 – Public school employees – Rules for bloodborne pathogens education and training*
Management Resources:	*2018 - August 2018 - August Policy Issue* *2013 - February Issue* *2020 - September Alert*

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