



4405 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL POLICY

Policy Type: Administrative
Applies To: All Staff, Students, Visitors
Approved By: LCS Head of Schools
Policy Reviewed: every 2 years
Adopted: 01 2003
Revisions: 11 2021

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- (a) Langley Christian School recognizes the importance of providing and maintaining a school environment which minimizes the risk of the transmission of any significant communicable disease. LCS also recognizes the need to ensure that any student or staff member with a communicable disease remain eligible for the benefits of its educational services, as well as his or her rights and privileges provided by law. To balance these rights with the school's obligation to protect the health of all students and staff, the following policies and procedures have been developed regarding any student who has a communicable disease.
- (b) This policy aligns with the intent of the:
 - 1.b.1. B.C. Workers Compensation Act
 - 1.b.2. B.C. Occupational Health and Safety Regulation
 - 1.b.3. BC Provincial Health Officer, Public Health Orders
 - 1.b.4. BC Communicable Disease Control guidance
 - 1.b.5. Fraser Health Authority - providing regional directions
 - 1.b.6. BC Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings (Oct. 1, 2021)
http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf
- (c) This policy applies to the following, but is not limited to, any diseases which have been declared by the Provincial Health Office or the B.C. Centre for Disease Control to be contagious, infectious, communicable and dangerous to the public.
 - 1.c.1. Class I: Measles, meningitis, meningococemia, chicken pox, etc.
 - 1.c.2. Class II: HIV infection, encephalitis, viral hepatitis, salmonellas, shigellosis, tuberculosis, etc.
- (d) LCS will work cooperatively with local, federal or provincial agencies as appropriate to enforce and adhere to health codes for prevention, control and containment of communicable diseases in the school community.

2. LCS administration's role in communicable disease prevention and control

- (a) Communicate to Fraser Health authority any unusual clusters of illness such as a diarrhea outbreak, rash-like-illnesses, flu, or anything else that may be of concern.
- (b) Distribute information and exposure letters to parents and caregivers as required.
- (c) Foster a positive attitude in the classroom about keeping healthy through disease prevention (i.e. hand washing, cough etiquette, and routine practices).
- (d) Provide Fraser Health with information as requested.
- (e) In the case of any variance between public health orders and other provincial guidelines, out of an abundance of caution for the safety of staff and students, the more restrictive measure may be applied by LCS administration.

3. Immunizations

- (a) The school adheres strictly to any municipal, federal or provincial public health order or legislation that mandates appropriate vaccinations of all school age children. The principal will exclude any child from school who is out of compliance with the required immunization schedule. One written warning will be given prior to exclusion.
- (b) School personnel will complete all immunization dates including the necessary Immunization Program forms.
- (c) The principal also has the authority to temporarily exclude from school a student who has a communicable disease or infection that is known to be spread by any form of casual contact and is considered a health threat to the school population.
- (d) Long-term exclusions from school may be extended only after consultation with the parent/guardian and a review of opinion by a mutually accepted physician. A learning plan must be in place to support at-home learning for the student for the duration of the student's absence from school.

4. Communicable Disease Control Panel

- (a) A multi-disciplinary communicable Disease Control Panel will be convened by the Head of Schools as needed. The purpose of this panel is to serve as a resource and advisory body to the school for specific communicable disease instruction, and for input regarding issues of major concern with respect to epidemic control and any communicable disease occurrence.
- (b) The panel will be comprised of the following:
 - Administrator or designee, building principal.
 - One or more physicians with expertise in related area, selected by the school.
- (c) In addition, one or more of the following may be added to the panel: a school board member, parent/guardian of an affected student, student or staff member's physician, local public health official, legal counsel for the student or staff member, and legal counsel for the school.

- (d) If the need for a panel determination exists, the panel shall be convened by the Head of Schools promptly and should make a reasonable effort to complete its review and evaluation in a prompt and timely manner.
- (e) In addition to an initial evaluation, the panel shall re-review the student's condition and situation on a periodic basis, as it deems appropriate, to make any modifications to the original recommendation.

5. Confidentiality

- (a) The school recognizes the importance of confidentiality. Any student or staff member's medical condition shall be disclosed only to the extent necessary to minimize the health risks to the individual and others, or to comply with public health orders or requirements of Fraser Health. The number of personnel aware of the individual's identity or condition will be kept at the minimum necessary to assure proper care of the individual and to detect situations in which the potential for transmission of the disease may be increased.
- (b) The multi-disciplinary Communicable Disease Control Panel responsible for making initial evaluations and placement decisions will also determine which personnel need be informed of the condition. Such determination will be in accordance with existing state or provincial laws.

6. Medical Evaluation and Documentation

- (a) If a student or staff member has a communicable disease, or if there is reasonable cause to believe that he or she does, the parent or guardian of the student of the affected individual will provide to the school upon request documentation or an appropriate medical evaluation.
- (b) Refusal to provide such information will result in the individual being excluded from school until the requirement is met. If a communicable disease is present, the information in the medical evaluation will be made available to the Communicable Disease Review Panel.
- (c) At any time, LCS administration may require documentation to support medical accommodations from generally applicable requirements or obligations, including without limitation in respect of exemptions from any regional or provincial health order. Such documentation will not normally seek any details of an underlying health condition, but merely establish the existence of a physical or mental impairment or other health condition and the extent of required accommodations resulting therefrom.

7. Placement

- (a) The principal may exclude students and/or personnel from school who are suspected of having a communicable disease, pending the completion of an appropriate medical evaluation. If such a condition is confirmed, continued exclusion shall be dependent on the nature of the condition and the decision, if applicable, of the Communicable Disease Review Panel.
- (b) The principal may exclude students and/or personnel from school who do not adhere to a public health order or recommendations and/or guidelines from a provincial authority or Fraser Health.
- (c) In most instances, return to school will be dependent on the written recommendation of the individual's own physician.

8. Education

- (a) On a periodic basis, the school may provide in-service training to all faculty and staff regarding the Communicable Disease Policy.
- (b) Similar sessions shall be made available to parents, if requested or as appropriate.