

No. 5605
SECTION: STUDENTS
TITLE: COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND
IMMUNIZATIONS

ADOPTED: 8/27/02
READOPTED: 1/29/14;11/15/16;9/17/19;6/21/22
REVISED: 6/18/07;6/21/11

OXFORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, the Board requires that established policy and guidelines concerning communicable diseases be followed.

A. Immunization

All students shall be immunized against certain diseases in accordance with Pennsylvania statutes, unless specifically exempt for religious or medical reasons.

No student shall be admitted to school for the first time who has not been immunized against diseases enumerated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, in the manner directed by the Secretary of Health.

A student shall be exempt from the requirements for immunizations whose parents/guardians object in writing to such immunizations for religious grounds or whose physician certifies that the child's physical condition contraindicates immunizations.

As per the Pennsylvania Department of Health, students may be admitted to school provisionally if evidence of at least one dose of each required immunization has been given. The next dose in the series shall be completed within thirty (30) days after the date due unless a plan for completion is provided by the health care provider. If this requirement is not met, the school administrator shall undertake suspension procedures, and the student will not be readmitted until immunization is completed.

Implementation of immunization requirements shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent, building principal or designee and shall be subject to the sanctions of law for violation of the State statute for immunization.

The Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Annually review state standards for immunization and direct accordingly the responsible district personnel.
2. Inform parents/guardians prior to a student's entry to school for the first time of the requirements for immunization, exemption available for religious or medical reason, and means by which such exemptions may be claimed.
3. Investigate and recommend to the Board district-sponsored programs of immunization as may be warranted by circumstances and the health

of the school community. Any such program is subject to Board approval and should be conducted in cooperation with local agencies.

B. Health Records

The District shall require that prior to a student's admittance to school for the first time; the parent/guardian shall complete a medical history report form that includes information regarding known communicable diseases. The nurse or school physician may use such reports to advise the parent/guardian of the need for further medical care.

The school nurse shall report the presence of suspected communicable diseases to the appropriate local health authority as required by the Department of Health.

All health records shall be confidential and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the student or at the request of the parent/guardian to a physician.

As part of the health record, an immunization record shall be maintained for each student enrolled, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

The district shall require parents/guardians to annually complete a health history update form that includes information regarding communicable diseases.

C. Attendance

The Board authorizes that students who have been diagnosed by a health care provider or who are suspected of having a disease by the school nurse shall be excluded from school for the period indicated by regulations of the Department of Health for certain specified diseases and infectious conditions. (Appendix A: PA Code 27.71 - Exclusions for children and staff having contact with children, for specified diseases and infectious conditions).

The Board and Administration of the Oxford Area School District is committed to maximizing our students' academic performance and physical wellbeing in a healthy and safe environment. The District recognizes that head lice infestations (pediculosis) do not pose a health hazard, are not a sign of poor hygiene, and are not responsible for the spread of any disease. However, it is acknowledged that misinformation about head lice causes anxiety for families, students and school staff. The health room staff will support parents/guardians and district employees with information, treatment and control of head lice in the family.

Students who exhibit signs and symptoms of lice infestation shall be excluded until verification of treatment is obtained. Upon return to school, the student will be rechecked by the school nurse to assess the infestation status and viability of any existing nits. Monitoring of chronic conditions will be performed as indicated by the school nurse.

Instruction regarding communicable and life threatening diseases shall be provided by the schools in the educational program for all levels. Parents/guardians shall be provided convenient opportunities to preview all instructional materials used in presentation of this subject.

OXFORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 5605 COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND IMMUNIZATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

APPENDIX A

Communicable Diseases in Children and Staff Attending Schools and
Child Care Group Settings

The Pennsylvania Code §27.71. Exclusion of children and staff having contact with children for specified diseases and infectious conditions.

A person in charge of a public, private, parochial, Sunday or other school or college shall exclude from school a child, or a staff person, including a volunteer, who has contact with children, who is suspected by a health care provider or the school nurse of having any of the communicable diseases, infections or conditions. Readmission shall be contingent upon the school nurse, or in the absence of the school nurse, a health care provider, verifying that the criteria for readmission have been satisfied. The diseases, the periods of exclusion and the criteria for readmission are as follows:

- i. *Diphtheria* (bacterial infection). Two weeks from the onset or until appropriate negative culture tests.
- ii. *Measles* (viral infection). Four days from the onset of rash. Exclusion may also be ordered by the Department as specified in §27.160 (relating to special requirements for measles).
- iii. *Mumps* (viral infection). Nine days from the onset or until subsidence of swelling.
- iv. *Pertussis* (whooping cough). Three weeks from the onset or 5 days from institution of appropriate antimicrobial therapy.
- v. *Rubella* (viral infection). Four days from the onset of rash.
- vi. *Chickenpox (varicella)*. Five days from the appearance of the first crop of vesicles, or when all the lesions have dried and crusted, whichever is sooner.
- vii. *Respiratory streptococcal (bacterial) infections including scarlet fever*. At least 10 days from the onset if no health care provider is in attendance or 24 hours after institution of appropriate antimicrobial therapy.
- viii. *Infectious conjunctivitis (pink eye)*. Until judged not infective; that is, without a discharge.
- ix. *Ringworm* (fungus infection). The person shall be allowed to return to school, child care or other group setting immediately after the first treatment, if body lesions are covered. Neither scalp nor body lesions that are dried need to be covered.

- x. *Impetigo contagiosa* (staph infection). Twenty-four hours after the institution of appropriate treatment.
- xi. *Pediculosis capitis* (head lice). The person shall be allowed to return to either the school, child care or other group setting immediately after first treatment. The person shall be reexamined for infestation by the school nurse, or other health care provider, 7 days post treatment.
- xii. *Pediculosis corpora* (body lice). After completion of appropriate treatment.
- xiii. *Scabies* (mites). After completion of appropriate treatment.
- xiv. *Trachoma* (chronic pinkeye). Twenty-four hours after institution of appropriate treatment.
- xv. *Tuberculosis* (TB). Following a minimum of 2 weeks adequate chemotherapy and three consecutive morning sputum smears, if obtainable. In addition, a note from the attending health care provider that the person is non-communicable shall be submitted prior to readmission.
- xvi. *Neisseria meningitides* (bacterial infection). Until judged non-infective after a course of rifampin or other drug which is effective against the nasopharyngeal carriage state of this disease, or until otherwise shown to be non-infective.

Source

The provisions of this § 27.71 amended January 25, 2002, effective January 26, 2002, 32 Pa.B.491. Immediately preceding text appears at serial pages (243670) to (243671).

Notes of Decisions

Exclusion: Removal

A student who was excluded from school due to head lice was not "removed" for disciplinary reasons as contemplated by Federal regulations, was not denied free appropriate public education and was not entitled to compensatory education. *Souderton Area School District v. Elisabeth S.*, 820 A.2d 863 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2003).

Cross References

This section cited in 28 PA. Code § 27.76 (relating to exclusion and readmission of children and staff having contact with children, in child care group settings).

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