

STUDENTS WITH HIV/AIDS

I. PURPOSE

Infection with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus ("HIV") is a major public health problem. HIV carriers may develop AIDS ("Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome"), or may be asymptomatic.

The purpose of this policy is to establish what actions shall be taken in the event the Brunswick School Department is made aware that a student attending school is infected with HIV. This policy has been adopted to assure that the rights and safety of all involved are preserved.

II. POLICY ELEMENTS

- A. In general, the Brunswick School Department shall provide educational opportunities for students infected with HIV just as it does for other students.
- B. In the event that a public health threat is perceived by the student's private physician, the Bureau of Health must be notified, and will then conduct an evaluation. If the school is notified of a student infected with HIV by the parents/guardians and becomes concerned about the safety of that student, other students, or staff, a similar evaluation may be requested. At any time the Brunswick School Department becomes concerned that a particular student poses a public health threat to others, advice may be requested from the Bureau of Health. The Superintendent also may consult on a strictly confidential basis with the school attorney.
- C. If the Bureau of Health determines that conditions exist which suggest that a student with an HIV infection is a health threat to the school community, the Bureau of Health and/or the Superintendent shall remove the student from the usual classroom setting until other arrangements can be made or until the Bureau of Health determines that the risks have abated. The health status of a student temporarily removed from the usual school setting in order to protect the health of the student or others will be re-evaluated at least quarterly by the Bureau of Health.
- D. Current Maine law protects the confidentiality of HIV test results with certain statutory exceptions. HIV test results may not be disclosed to anyone other than the Bureau of Health without written consent of parents/guardians. Records containing information about HIV test results and consent forms relating to test results shall be kept separate from other school records. Only those persons given written consent by the student's parents/guardians shall have access. The School Principal or designee will determine where records will be stored.

E. With written consent of the parents/guardians, the school shall designate an individual or team to:

1. serve as the liaison between the school and the student's parents, the student's physician and, if necessary, the Bureau of Health; and/or
2. serve as the supervisor of the medical component of the student's educational experience.

Any team member or individual entrusted with the knowledge of a student infected with HIV must, by law, keep his/her knowledge of that child's status confidential, and access to information shall be limited only to those persons authorized in writing by the student's parents/guardians.

F. At the parents/guardians written request, a designated team member, usually the school nurse, will to the extent practicable notify the student's parents/guardians and/or the student's physician in the event that the designated team member becomes aware that infections occur in the school population that may place an immunodeficient student at increased risk as defined by the student's physician or Bureau of Health. The decision whether or not to remove an immunodeficient student from school because of medical risk to that student will be made by the parents/guardians and the student's physician.

G. Because of the inability to identify individuals who may be infected with HIV or other agents transmissible through blood and other body fluids, the Brunswick School Department shall follow standard procedures in consultation with the Bureau of Health. All staff members shall participate in training on how to deal with body fluids that they may encounter as part of their daily tasks. The procedures for cleaning bodily fluid spills shall be reviewed annually by all school staff members.

The standard procedures developed by administration in consultation with the Bureau of Health shall address the fluoride mouth rinse program.

H. The Brunswick School Department will seek to provide educational programs to inform parents/guardians, students and staff regarding AIDS and other communicable diseases even though there may not be students with infection currently enrolled.

I. In any instance where this policy requires the consent of the parents/guardians of a HIV-infected student, consent must be obtained directly from the student if the student is 18 years of age or older.

Adopted: 4/12/88

Revised: 2/11/98