



Adopted on interim basis: 1998-09-01

Adopted: 1998-12-01

## Policy EBBA

### CONTROL OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES IN THE SCHOOLS

The Board recognizes the importance of controlling contagious diseases in the schools. Without specific written medical exemption, all children attending the schools of the New Frontiers School Board must be adequately vaccinated against the following infectious diseases: diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, polio-myelitis, measles, rubella, mumps, Haemophilus influenzae, type b1.

Parents having elected against the vaccination of their child(ren) for one or more of the above mentioned diseases must declare this on the vaccination record developed at the school level. Such parents must be made aware that their child is subject to exclusion from the school in the case of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease.

The parents or guardians of a child showing signs of a contagious infectious disease transmissible in the school-setting must keep their child home until one of the following is obtained:

- a) the consent of a doctor via certificate or telephone call to the school, or
- b) the verbal consent of the CLSC nurse assigned to the school, or
- c) the consent of the person in charge of the prevention of infectious diseases at the regional health services offices.

In the event of any of the situations above, the school may require written medical consent before re-admittance.

It is to be noted that adults working (or otherwise coming into direct school contact) are subject to the implications of this policy if they themselves show signs of contagious infectious disease.

#### Scope of the Problem

There are a number of contagious infectious diseases which cannot be prevented by vaccination even though school children are vulnerable. These diseases require special control measures and included are: impetigo, scarlet fever and varicella (chicken pox).

In addition, other diseases are caused by parasites and are subject to this policy because control programming is mandatory. Here reference is made to pediculosis (head lice and nits), and scabies.

#### Responsibilities of the Various Partners

##### A. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION:

- At the time of registration, the principal or his/her delegate must obtain either proof of vaccination status of the child, or a written statement from the parent giving the reason.
- The principal must communicate with ALL parents when there is a case of communicable disease confirmed within the school population.
- At the beginning of each school year, the principal must publish the substance of this policy to the parents of all students. This could be through the student handbook or via special communication. In any case, the information includes Appendix A which accompanies this policy.
- In school, the principal shall ensure that all washroom facilities and water fountains are functional and in good condition as well as ensuring the cleanliness of the physical equipment. Any school cafeteria operation is expected to be carried out in such a way as to ensure food safety and hygiene standards.
- It is the responsibility of the principal or his/her delegate to inform the parents when a child is suspected of suffering from a contagious disease. The CLSC nurse working at the school shall be informed, and in the absence of the nurse, the coordinator at the CLSC is to be contacted.

School Administration Cont'd

- In the case of a recommendation by the health authorities for exclusion or school closure, school administration shall inform the parents and students concerned and ensure that the terms of the exclusion are respected. Where the exclusion is not respected, the school must inform the head of the regional health services who will take appropriate action.
- In the case of pediculosis (head lice, nits), it is the responsibility of the school principal, after consultation with the school nurse, to decide to allow a child to remain or to be excluded.

B. PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

- Parents must inform the school administration or the school nurse when a child develops an infectious disease or virus such as ringworm that could be transmissible in the school. The child showing such signs must remain at home until written medical consent is provided the school. The school nurse is responsible for any necessary follow-up on such cases.
- In the case of an outbreak of vaccine preventable disease, where parents have refused to have their child vaccinated, the child may be excluded from school by a decision of the regional health authorities.
- In general, parents assume responsibility for their child's medical treatment.

C. HEALTH AUTHORITIES:

- It is the responsibility of the CLSC to inform teachers, students and parents on the identification of problems involving infectious diseases. The CLSC nurse assigned to the school must verify the vaccination status of students at all levels and follow up as necessary with those parents whose children are not adequately vaccinated.
- It is the responsibility of the CLSC nurse or other “responsables” to report any cases of infectious diseases to the regional health authorities (DSC).
- During outbreaks, vaccination may be offered at the CLSC, or under certain circumstances, at the school.
- The regional health authorities are responsible to ensure the surveillance and control of infectious diseases on its territory. Health professionals, notably those in the schools, are required to report incidents of infectious diseases and this according to the Public Health Protection Act.
- The head of the regional health authority has the power to temporarily exclude children from school or carry out school closure and limit access to new students should the circumstances require this.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, this policy is intended to give a general framework for the control of contagious diseases in the schools of the system. Future appendices relating to the specifics of certain diseases will be issued as organizational guides for the principals of the schools.

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**Policy EBBA  
ANNEX A**

**CONTROL OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES IN THE SCHOOLS**

List of Diseases to be Reported Immediately by Type of Institution				
DISEASE	TO BE REPORTED			POSSIBLE EXCLUSION
	By parents to school after medical consultation	By school to CLSC or DSC		
		If one case	If many cases	
Common Cold			X	
Conjunctivitis	X		X	X
Coxsackie Viruses	X		X	
Diphtheria	X	X		X
Epiglottitis	X	X		X
Erythema Infectiosum (Fifth Disease)	X		X	
Flu (influenza)	X		X	X
Food Poisoning			X	X
Gastroenteritis			X	X
Giardiasis			X	X
Haemophilus Influenzae, Type B	X	X		X
Hepatitis A	X	X		X
Hepatitis B			X	
Herpes Simplex			X	
Impetigo			X	X
Measles	X	X		X
Mononucleosis, infectious			X	
Meningitis, aseptic	X		X	
Meningitis, bacterial (Neisseria meningitis. Haemophilus influenza, type b)	X	X		X
Mumps	X	X		X
Oxyuriasis (Enterobiasis. Pinworm)			X	
Pediculosis (Lice)	X		X	X
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	X	X		X
Pharyngitis, streptococcal			X	X
Pharyngitis, viral			X	
Poliomyelitis (Polio)	X	X		
Rabies	X	X		X
Rubella	X	X		X
Scabies	X	X		X
Scarlet fever	X		X	X
Streptococcal infections (Strep Throat)			X	X
Tetanus (Lock Jaw)		X		
Tuberculosis	X	X		X
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	X		X	X
Warts			X	