

BLOOD BORNE CONTAGIOUS OR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The attendance at school of students who suffer from blood borne diseases which are infectious or contagious, such as AIDS and Hepatitis B, and which may be transmitted by the exchange of body secretions, shall be determined by the superintendent on a case-by-case basis. The superintendent shall obtain the advice of the local department of health to assist him/her in making his/her determination. The student may be excluded from school and school-related functions pending the superintendent's decision. The superintendent shall issue regulations setting forth the procedures to be followed to effectuate this policy.

The identity of a student who has tested positive for human immunodeficiency virus shall be confidential in accordance with state law.

An alternative educational program shall be made available to any student whose removal pursuant to this policy is expected to result in a prolonged absence from school or where otherwise required by law.

The School Board shall adopt guidelines for school attendance for children with human immunodeficiency virus. Such guidelines shall be consistent with the model guidelines for such school attendance developed by the Board of Education.

Employee training in the etiology, prevention, transmission modes, and effects of blood-borne pathogens and in the use of universal precautions for handling blood and other potentially infectious materials shall be conducted periodically in accordance with the regulations of the Safety and Health Codes Board of the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Program within the Department of Labor and Industry, regulations of the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and all other applicable state and federal laws and regulations. Universal precautions for handling blood and other potentially infectious materials shall be implemented within the school setting and on buses in accordance with aforementioned laws and regulations.

Adopted: November 6, 2014

Amended: July 12, 2018

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-271.3, 32.1-36.1, 32.1-45.2.

Model Guidelines for School Attendance for Children with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (Attachment to Virginia Department of Education Superintendent's Memo #32 (Feb. 13, 2004)).

Cross Refs: EBAB Possible Exposure to Viral Infections
 IGBG Homebound, Correspondence, and Alternative Means of Instruction

GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS

The Albemarle School Board recognizes its dual obligations to protect the rights of individual students infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and to provide a safe environment for students, staff, and the public. Because HIV is not transmitted through casual contact, any student who is HIV-infected will continue in a regular classroom assignment unless the student's health significantly interferes with his or her ability to benefit from the educational program.

Albemarle Public Schools will work cooperatively with the local health department with regard to the school attendance of students infected with HIV. To enhance the school attendance of students who are HIV-infected, the school division will collaborate with public and private organizations in the provision of support services to HIV-infected students.

All students are expected to satisfy the immunization requirements of Virginia Code § 22.1-271.2 unless a required immunization would be harmful to the health of the student. Students who are HIV-infected or have acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) may be exempted from obtaining immunizations which would otherwise be required. School personnel will cooperate with public health personnel regarding exemptions from the requirements.

Mandatory screening for HIV infection is not warranted as a condition of school attendance. Upon learning that a student is HIV-infected or has AIDS, the division superintendent may consult with the student's family, the student's family physician, or an official from the local department of health to determine whether the student is well enough to stay in school. If a change in the student's program is necessary because of the student's health, the division superintendent or designee will work with the student's family, family physician or local health official to develop an educational plan for the student.

Any school board employee or volunteer who has any information regarding a student's HIV-infected status will treat that information as confidential. Division personnel will share information regarding a student's HIV status only with the written consent of the student's parent or guardian.

Despite the extremely remote risk that exposure of skin to blood could result in infection, the following universal precautions for handling blood will be implemented within schools and on school buses:

- persons involved in cleaning surfaces exposed to blood and persons rendering first aid to bleeding students shall wear disposable gloves to avoid exposure of open skin lesions and mucous membranes to blood;
- surfaces contaminated with blood shall be promptly cleaned with household bleach (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) using disposable towels and tissues;
- hands must be washed after gloves are removed;
- if one person's skin is exposed to the blood of another person, the exposed areas shall be washed with soap and water.

To ensure implementation of the proper procedures for all body fluids, training will be provided to all school personnel. Training will include information regarding the following: etiology, transmission, prevention, and risk reduction of HIV; standard procedures for handling blood and body fluids; community resources available for information and referral; and local division policies.

Comprehensive and age-appropriate instruction on the principal modes by which HIV is spread and the best methods for the reduction and prevention of AIDS will be provided.