



Communicable Diseases Policy

First Reading: July 13, 2020

Adopted: August 10, 2020

FGCS shall provide reasonable protection against the risk of exposure to communicable diseases for students and staff while in school facilities. Reasonable protection from communicable diseases is generally attained through immunization, isolation/exclusion of symptomatic individuals and other measures provided by Oregon law, the local public health agency (LPHA) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

Definitions

“Restrictable diseases” are defined by state rule and include, but are not limited to, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) or COVID-19, chickenpox, diphtheria, hepatitis A, measles, mumps, pertussis, rubella, Salmonella enterica serotype Typhi infection, scabies, Shiga-toxicogenic Escherichia coli (STEC) infection, shigellosis and tuberculosis disease. The term ‘restrictable disease’ may include a communicable stage of Hepatitis B infection if, in the opinion of the local public health officer, the person poses an unusually high risk to others (e.g., a child that exhibits uncontrollable biting or spitting).

The term ‘restrictable disease’ also includes any other communicable disease identified in an order issued by the OHA or the LPH officer as posing a danger to the public’s health. A disease is considered to be a restrictable disease if it is listed in [Oregon Administrative Rule \(OAR\) 333-019-0010](#) or has been designated to be a restrictable disease by FGCS Board policy or by the LPH officer after determining that it presents a significant public health risk in the school setting.

‘Susceptible’ means being at risk of contracting a restrictable disease by virtue of being in one or more categories described in law.

‘Reportable diseases’ means a human disease, infection, microorganism or condition as specified in [OAR Chapter 333, Division 18](#).

Students

When an administrator has reason to suspect that a student has or has been exposed to any restrictable disease for which the student is required to be excluded, the administrator shall exclude the student from school and, if necessary, send the student home. If the disease is a reportable disease under Oregon law, the administrator will report the occurrence to the LPHA.

The student will be excluded until such time as the student or parent/guardian of the student presents a certificate from a physician, a physician assistant licensed under ORS 677.505-677.525, a nurse practitioner licensed under ORS 678.375-678.390, a LPHA nurse or school district nurse stating that the student does not have or is not a carrier of any restrictable disease.

The administrator will exclude a susceptible student that has been exposed to a restrictable disease that is also a reportable disease unless the LPH officer determines that exclusion is not necessary to protect the public's health, or the LPH officer states that the disease is no longer communicable to others or that adequate precautions have been taken to minimize the risk of transmission. The administrator may request the LPH officer to make a determination as allowed by law.

The administrator will also take whatever steps they deem necessary to organize and operate school programs in ways that both further the education and protect the health of students and staff.

FGCS may provide the educational program in an alternative setting for the protection of both students diagnosed with a restrictable disease and those exposed to a restrictable disease. A student may remain in the alternative educational setting until such time as a licensed health care provider (as listed above) states that the student does not have or is not a carrier of the restrictable disease, or until such time as a LPH officer states that the disease is no longer communicable to others or that adequate precautions have been taken to minimize the risk of transmission. A restrictable disease exclusion for chickenpox, scabies, staphylococcal skin infections, streptococcal infections, diarrhea or vomiting may also be removed by a school nurse or health care provider.

More stringent exclusion policies may be adopted by the FGCS Board of Directors or by the LPHA.

When a restrictable or reportable disease is diagnosed and confirmed for a student, the administrator shall inform the appropriate employees with a legitimate educational interest to protect against the risk of exposure.

FGCS shall protect the confidentiality of students' health conditions and records to the extent possible under federal and state law.

Staff

An employee who knows that they have been exposed to any restrictable disease may not report to work unless authorized by Oregon law. When an administrator has reason to suspect

that the employee has or has been exposed to any restrictable disease and exclusion is required, the administrator shall send the employee home. If the disease is a reportable disease, the administrator will report the occurrence to the LPHA.

Employees shall comply with all other measures adopted by FGCS and with all rules adopted by the OHA and the LPHA.

Employees shall provide services to students as required by law. In cases when a restrictable or reportable disease is diagnosed and confirmed for a student, the administrator shall inform the appropriate employees with a legitimate educational interest to protect against the risk of exposure.

Employees who have the responsibility to work with or provide services to persons other than students shall provide the services to all such persons as required by law.

FGCS shall protect the confidentiality of an employee's health condition and record to the extent possible consistent with federal and state law.

FGCS will include in its emergency plan a description of actions to be taken by FGCS staff in the case of a declared public health emergency that disrupts school operations. The principal or principal's designee will develop rules and practices to implement this policy.

Reportable Diseases Notification

All FGCS employees shall comply with all reporting measures adopted by FGCS and with all rules set forth by the OHA and LPHA.

FGCS administrators may seek confirmation and assistance from the LPHA to determine appropriate responses when the administrator is notified that a student or employee has been exposed to a restrictable, reportable disease.

An administrator shall determine, within guidelines allowed by law, those persons with a legitimate educational interest who may be informed of the communicable nature of a student's or employee's disease.

Education

An administrator or designee shall seek information from the district nurse or LPHA regarding health needs/hazards of all students and the impact on the educational needs of a student diagnosed with a restrictable disease or exposed to a restrictable disease.

An administrator or designee shall use the information obtained to determine an educational program for such a student and implement the program in an appropriate setting. An administrator or designee shall review the appropriateness of the educational program and setting for each individual student subject to restriction/exclusion.

Equipment and Training

An administrator or designee shall determine what equipment or supplies are needed in a particular classroom or other setting to prevent disease transmission. The administrator or designee shall consult with the district nurse or LPHA to secure any special training needed in methods of protection from disease transmission. All employees will participate in annual training in proper precautions pertaining to blood and body fluid exposure per the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Legal References

ORS 431.150-431.157, 433.001-433.526

OAR 333-018, 333-019-0010, 333-019-0014, 437-002-0360, 437-002-0377, 581-022-2220

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)(updated 2017)