HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION

Purpose

Good health and safety are essential to student learning.

Application

The goal of this policy is to protect individual students, staff members, and the school population in general and to foster a healthy environment conducive to learning. Pleasants County Schools will work cooperatively through public and private partnerships, including the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department, to enforce and adhere to W.Va. Code §18A-5-1, 16-3-4, 16-3D-1, 16-3-5, 16-3C-1 through 16-3C-9, 18-2-5, 18-5-9, 18-5-22, 18-5-34 and 64CSR95 for prevention, control, and containment of communicable disease in schools.

Definitions

For a full description of definitions, refer to West Virginia Department of Education Policy 2423 – Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

Health Promotion Through School Screenings/Examinations

The school nurse is qualified to coordinate public and private partnerships to assist with health care access, to facilitate annual well child examinations/preventive health care, biannual dental examinations, immunization completion, enrollment in health care insurance, and provide school screenings when indicated as set forth in West Virginia Policy 2423 Section 5.

New enterers in West Virginia public school prekindergarten (pre-k) and kindergarten should have on file within 45 days of enrollment or prior to the first day of school a Health Check screening record or comparable comprehensive health screening completed within the prior 12 calendar months.

New enterers in West Virginia public school pre-k, kindergarten, grades 2, 7, and 12 should have on file within 45 days of enrollment or prior to the first day of school a record of an oral health examination completed within the prior 12 calendar months.

Provision of an oral examination record transition plan is as follows:

- 2015-16 School Year- Pre-K and Kindergarten
- 2016-17 School Year- Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Grade 2
- 2017-18 School Year- Pre-K, Kindergarten, Grade 2, and Grade 7
- 2018-19 School Year- Pre-K, Kindergarten, Grade 2, Grade 7, and Grade 12
Disease Prevention Measures Through Immunizations

- All children entering pre-k, kindergarten, or a West Virginia public school for the first time must have immunizations and show proof upon enrollment as set forth in W.Va. Code §16-3-4 and 64CSR95. All pre-k students shall also meet requirements set forth in West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2525 – West Virginia's Universal Access to a Quality Early Education System (126CSR28). Students entering grades 7 and 12 must meet additional immunization requirements of Tdap and Meningococcal vaccines as set forth in West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2423 and West Virginia 64CSR95.

- Pleasants County Schools Health Services Immunization Compliance Procedure and Immunization Compliance Notice will be utilized to assure compliance with West Virginia immunization laws and rules.

- The immunization record shall be a public health record and provided to the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department and/or the West Virginia Statewide Immunization Information System (WVSIIIS) for entry into WVSIIIS.

Quality Assurance for School-Based Services

Community services performed in the school setting should be regular and ongoing services that are evidence based or a promising practice and follow best practices and guidelines. Immunizations, Oral Health Services, TST, and any other services shall incorporate the protocols set forth in West Virginia Department of Education Policy 2423 and appropriate laws and regulations.

Disease Prevention Measures Through Practice and Education

- Good hand hygiene is the single most effective procedure to prevent the spread of communicable disease in the school setting. An allowance for handwashing should be incorporated into the daily routine of all students.

- Irrespective of the disease presence, standard/universal precautions shall be used. Blood and body fluids from any person in the school setting shall be treated with standard/universal precautions as set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA website).

- Instruction regarding communicable diseases shall be taught to students as set forth in West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2520.5 – Next Generation Health Content Standards and Objectives (126CSR44E). An opportunity shall be afforded to the parent/guardian of a child subject to instruction in the prevention, transmission, and spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases to examine the course curriculum requirements and materials to be used in such instruction. The parent/guardian may exempt such child from participation in such instruction by giving notice to that effect in writing to the school principal as set forth in W.Va. Code §18-2-9.

- Education regarding prevention, transmission, and treatment of current communicable diseases will be provided to school personnel, a minimum of every two years.
Disease Control Measures

- Distinctions will be made related to diseases that are communicable in the school setting versus those known not to be spread by casual contact, e.g. AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and other like diseases.
- Each reported case of disease known not to be spread by casual contact will be validated by a designated individual such as a school nurse as set forth in W.Va. Code §18A-5-1 and §18-5-22.
- The school nurse or administrator shall exclude from school any student known to have or suspected of having any infectious disease known to be spread by casual contact and is considered a health threat to the school population.
- The superintendent has the authority to exclude a staff member from school when evidence or information from a qualified source confirms the staff member has a potentially communicable disease known to be spread by casual contact and is considered a health threat to the school population.

- All reportable communicable diseases will be referred to the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department as set forth in West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2423 and West Virginia Bureau for Public Health Legislative Rule 64CSR7.

Confidentiality

All persons privileged with any medical information that pertains to students or staff members shall be required to treat all proceedings, discussions, and documents as confidential information. Before any medical information is shared with anyone in the school setting "a legitimate educational reason" or "health or safety emergency situation" must exist. All other releases of confidential medical and health information shall be released only with the consent of the parent/guardian, student if over 18, employee or their representative as set forth in West Virginia Board of Education Policy 4350 – Procedures for the Collection, Maintenance and Disclosure of Student Data, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (126CSR94). The exception is immunization records as referenced in Section V of this policy.

Information from health records is part of the educational record and should be shared with the parent/guardian and pass freely among the school and medical home/health care provider to enhance student health only after permission is obtained from the parent/guardian.

Severability

If any provisions of this rule or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such federal legislation or invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this rule.

Adopted: November 10, 2016
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