

# **LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

POLICY: 203  
SECTION: PUPILS  
TITLE: COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND IMMUNIZATION  
ADOPTED: JULY 18, 1994  
REVISED: MAY 21, 2018

## **203. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND IMMUNIZATION**

### **Authority**

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, including Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the Board requires that established policy and administrative regulations be followed by students, parents/guardians and district staff.<sup>1</sup>

### **Definitions**

**Certificate of Immunizations** - the official form furnished by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The certificate is filled out by the parent/guardian or health care provider and signed by the health care provider, public health official or school nurse or a designee. The certificate is given to the school as proof of full immunization. The school maintains the certificate as the official school immunization record or stores the details of the record in a computer database.<sup>2</sup>

**Medical Certificate** - the official form furnished by the Pennsylvania Department of Health setting out the immunization plan for a student who is not fully immunized, filled out and signed by a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant, or by a public health official when the immunization is provided by the Department of Health or a local health department, and given to a school as proof that the student is scheduled to complete the required immunizations.<sup>3</sup>

### **Guidelines**

#### **A. Immunization**

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<sup>1</sup> 24 P.S. 1303a; 28 Pa. Code. 23.81 et. seq.

<sup>2</sup> 28 Pa. Code. 23.82.

<sup>3</sup> 28 Pa. Code. 23.82.

All students shall be immunized against specific diseases in accordance with Pennsylvania statutes and regulations, unless specifically exempt for religious or medical reasons.

A student shall be exempt from the requirements for immunization whose parent or guardian objects in writing to such immunization on religious grounds or whose physician certifies that the student's physical condition contraindicates immunization.<sup>4</sup>

A student who has not been immunized in accordance with state regulations shall not be admitted to or permitted to attend district schools, unless exempted for medical or religious reasons as stated above, or provisionally admitted by the Superintendent or designee after beginning a multiple dose vaccine series and submitting proof of completed immunizations or a medical certificate identifying the dates for completing immunizations on or before the fifth school day of attendance.<sup>5</sup>

Homeless students who have not been immunized or are unable to provide immunization records due to being homeless shall be admitted in accordance with the provisions of applicable law and regulations.<sup>6</sup>

Foster care students and students transferring into a school within the Commonwealth shall be admitted in accordance with law and regulations, and shall have thirty (30) days to provide proof of immunization, a medical certificate detailing the plan to complete a multiple dose vaccine series, or to satisfy the requirements for an exemption.<sup>7</sup>

Monitoring of immunization requirements shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent or designee, building/grade principal, and school nurse who shall be subject to the sanctions of law for violation of the State statute for immunization of pupils.<sup>8</sup>

Students attending child care group settings located in a school, a pre-kindergarten program or an early intervention program operated by the district shall be immunized in accordance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) standards.<sup>9</sup>

The Superintendent or designee shall:

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<sup>4</sup> 24 P.S. 1303a; 22 Pa.Code. 11.20; 28 Pa. Code 23.84.

<sup>5</sup> 22 Pa.Code. 11.20; 28 Pa. Code 23.83 and 23.84.

<sup>6</sup> 28 Pa.Code. 23.85; Pol. 200 and 251.

<sup>7</sup> 28 Pa. Code. 23.85.

<sup>8</sup> 24 P.S. 1303(a)-(b).

<sup>9</sup> 28 Pa.Code. 23.82 and 27.77.

1. Annually review the State Standards for immunization of pupils and direct the responsible district personnel accordingly;
2. Inform parents and guardians of students prior to their admission to school, or grade requiring additional immunizations, of the requirements of immunization, the requisite proof of immunization,<sup>10</sup> the exemption available for religious or medical reasons and the means by which such exemptions may be claimed;
3. Designate school personnel to review student medical certificates in accordance with law and regulations to ensure compliance with full immunization requirements;<sup>11</sup> and
4. Investigate and recommend to the Board such district-sponsored programs of immunization that may be warranted to safeguard the health of the school community. Any such program is subject to Board approval and may be conducted in cooperation with local health agencies.

The Superintendent or designee shall report immunization data electronically to the Department of Health by December 31 of each year. If the district is unable to complete the report electronically, the Superintendent or designee shall report the immunization data on the required form to the Department of Health by December 15.<sup>12</sup>

#### B. Health Records

The District shall require that prior to admission to school for the first time that the parent(s) or guardian shall complete a medical history report form which shall include information regarding known communicable diseases. The nurse or school physician may use such reports to advise the parent/guardian of the need for further medical care as set forth in Policy No. 209.<sup>13</sup>

All health records shall be confidential, and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the student or to a physician at the written request of the parent or guardian.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> 24 P.S.1303a; 22 Pa. Code. 11.20; 28 Pa. Code. 23.83, 23.84, and 23.85.

<sup>11</sup> 28 Pa. Code. 23.82 and 23.85.

<sup>12</sup> 28 Pa. Code. 23.86.

<sup>13</sup> 24 P.S.1402.

<sup>14</sup> 24 P.S. 1409.

As part of the health record, a certificate of immunization for each child enrolled shall be maintained as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.<sup>15</sup>

A comprehensive health record shall be maintained for each student enrolled in the district. The record shall include the results of required tests, measurements, screenings, regular and special examinations and medical questionnaires.<sup>16</sup>

The Board shall require that the medical history information submitted with health and dental examinations required under Policy 209 "Health Examinations" be periodically revised to include recent medical advice as to communicable diseases.

### C. Communicable Diseases/Attendance

The school nurse(s) shall report the presence of suspected communicable diseases to the appropriate local health authority as required by the Department of Health.<sup>17</sup>

The Superintendent or designee shall direct that health guidelines and universal precautions designed to minimize the transmission of communicable diseases be implemented in district schools.

Instruction regarding prevention of communicable and life-threatening diseases shall be provided by the schools in the educational program for all levels, in accordance with state regulations.<sup>18</sup>

Parents/Guardians shall be informed of and be provided opportunities during school hours to review all curriculum materials used in instruction relative to communicable and life-threatening diseases.<sup>19</sup>

The following policy shall supplement the Board's Policy No. 204 on student attendance by establishing guidelines for the attendance of students with communicable diseases.

The Board authorizes that students who have been diagnosed by a physician or are suspected of having the disease by the school nurse shall be excluded

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<sup>15</sup> 28 Pa. Code. 23.65.

<sup>16</sup> 24 P.S. 1402.

<sup>17</sup> 28. Pa. Code 27.1, 27.2, and 27.23; 24 P.S. 1409.

<sup>18</sup> 22 Pa. Code. 4.29.

<sup>19</sup> 22 Pa. Code. 4.29 and 4.4.

from school for the period indicated by regulations of the Department of Health for certain specified diseases and infectious conditions.<sup>20</sup>

Students who have been diagnosed by a physician as being absent due to a communicable disease not specifically listed by the Department of Health or who have been diagnosed as a carrier of such disease may be excluded for the protection of the school community under the following procedures:

The school physician shall make a preliminary recommendation to the District as to the health risks associated with diagnosed communicable disease. In the event that potential health risks to the school community would be identified by the school physician due to the admission or continued attendance of the student in question, a panel shall be convened to review the medical history and assess the specific health risks to the identified student and to the school community.

Prior to the panel's assessment and recommendation as to health risks, the Superintendent or designee may preliminarily exclude the child from the educational program based upon the school physician's previous recommendation and after the Superintendent or designee has consulted with the student's parents or guardian and personal physician.

The Board shall name an administrator to coordinate the District's response to the issue; the administrator shall convene the panel. The panel shall consist of: the coordinating administrator, school physician, school nurse, family physician, parent or guardian, and appropriate local health official.

The panel shall make an assessment of the potential for transmission of the communicable disease to the school community and the risks associated with potential infection. The panel shall utilize as a resource the Centers for Disease Control Guidelines on Education of Children infected with AIDS-causing viruses.

Within ten (10) days the panel shall make a recommendation to the Superintendent or designee regarding the attendance of the student. The Superintendent or designee shall promptly make a final decision on attendance or alternate placement of the student.

The panel, at the request of the administrator, shall meet periodically to assess the recommendations as to attendance.

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<sup>20</sup> 28 Pa. Code. 27.71 and 27.72.