



Frederick County Public Schools
Board of Education
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
Policy 119

A. Policy Purpose

1. To establish a communicable disease Policy that prioritizes the health and safety of Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) students and staff.
2. To outline the Board of Education of Frederick County's (Board) expectations regarding the management of communicable diseases within the school setting, including measures to prevent, control, report, and respond to the transmission of communicable illnesses.

B. Definitions

1. "Communicable Disease" is defined to mean an infectious illness that can be spread from person to person, or from animal to person.
2. "Immunization" is defined to mean the process of being made immune or resistant to an infectious disease, typically by the administration of a vaccine.
3. "Infectious Disease" is defined to mean an illness caused by germs (such as bacteria, viruses, or fungi) that spread from person to person, are transmitted by insects or other animals, or are present in the air, water, food, or soil. All communicable diseases are infectious, but, not all infectious diseases are communicable.
4. "Outbreak" is defined to mean an increase in the number of infections in a facility, such as a school or child care center, over the baseline rate usually found in that facility.
5. "Reportable Communicable Disease" is defined as a disease that when diagnosed, requires health care providers to report to state or local public health officials.

C. Policy Statement

1. In support of its strategic goals, the Board seeks to promote a culture fostering wellness and civility for students and staff. The Board acknowledges its responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment for students, employees, contractors, and volunteers.
2. The Board recognizes that communicable diseases are one of the most common causes of illness and absenteeism among students and staff. Therefore, the Board's expectation is that staff, students, and parents will take appropriate measures to help prevent and control the transmission of communicable diseases in the school setting.

D. Implementation

1. **Immunizations.** All schools shall comply with the Maryland Department of Health’s immunization requirements in accordance with State regulation and as outlined in [Board Policy 409, *Student Health and Wellness*](#).
2. **Reporting of Communicable Diseases**
 - a. Any person with knowledge of suspected or confirmed cases of a communicable disease in a school, which may pose a serious risk to others, is responsible for reporting this information to the appropriate school personnel.
 - b. The school principal or designee is responsible to notify the Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) of all suspected or diagnosed cases of reportable communicable diseases in compliance with Maryland law.
3. **Joint Responsibility for Communicable Diseases Transmission Prevention**
 - a. The Superintendent or their designee, with assistance from designated FCHD personnel, is responsible to implement a plan for preventing the spread of any reportable communicable diseases identified in schools.
 - b. The Superintendent or designee and designated FCHD personnel have joint responsibility for developing procedures to control the spread of nonreportable communicable diseases identified in schools.
4. **Implementing Regulations.** The Superintendent is directed to issue regulations to support this Policy, which assist school personnel in controlling communicable diseases within the school environment and facilitate compliance with Maryland law.

E. Related Information

1. **Board Policy**
 - a. [Policy 409, *Student Health and Wellness*](#)
2. **Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)**
 - a. [COMAR 10.06.01.02, *Definitions*](#)
 - b. [COMAR 10.06.01.03, *Reportable Diseases, Conditions, Outbreaks, and Unusual Manifestations; Submitting Clinical Materials*](#)
 - c. [COMAR 10.06.01.04, *Reporting Procedures*](#)
 - d. [COMAR 10.06.04, *School Health Services and Required Immunizations Before Entry into School*](#)
 - e. [COMAR 10.06.04.01, *School Health Services*](#)
 - f. [COMAR 13A.05.05.07, *School Health Services–For All Students*](#)
 - g. [COMAR 13A.05.05.12, *School Health Services Standards–Dissemination of School Health Services Information*](#)
3. **Deactivated Board Policies**
 - a. Policy 420, *Physical Examinations/Immunizations of Students*
4. **External Resources**
 - a. [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “Vaccine Glossary” Webpage](#)
 - b. [Frederick County Government “Communicable Diseases” Webpage](#)

- c. [Frederick County Health Department “FAQs: School Health” Webpage](#)
- d. [Maryland Department of Health Center for Immunization Webpage](#)
- e. [Maryland Department of Health. \(August 2024\). *Maryland Communicable Diseases Summary: A Guide for School Health Services Personnel, Child Care Providers and Youth Camps*](#)
- f. [Maryland Department of Health; Maryland State Department of Education. \(2007\). *Bloodborne Pathogens Control and Handling Body Fluids in the School Setting \(Maryland State School Health Guideline\)*](#)
- g. [Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Health; Maryland State School Health Council. \(2002\). *Management of Communicable Diseases in a School Setting \(Maryland State School Health Guidelines\)*](#)

5. FCPS Regulations

- a. [Regulation 119-01, *Communicable Diseases* \(formerly 200-26\)](#)
- b. [Regulation 119-02, *Management of Pediculosis \(Head Lice\)* \(formerly 400-21\)](#)
- c. [Regulation 119-03, *Bloodborne Pathogen Control Plan* \(formerly 200-23\)](#)
- d. [Regulation 119-04, *Blood Activities in the Classroom* \(formerly 500-37\)](#)
- e. [Regulation 409-03, *Immunization Program* \(formerly 400-64\)](#)

6. Maryland Statutes

- a. [Md. Code Ann., Educ § 7-401](#)
- b. [Md. Code Ann., Educ § 7-403](#)
- c. [Md. Code Ann., Educ § 7-406](#)
- d. [Md. Code Ann., Educ § 7-1303](#)
- e. [Md. Code Ann., Health Gen. § 18-209](#)

F. Policy History (Maintained by Legal Services)

<i>Responsible Office</i>	Department of Special Education and Student Services
Adoption Dates	08/27/25
Review Dates	
Revision Dates	