

Infectious Disease

Reporting

Reportable diseases, as defined by the state health department and designated on the notifiable disease chart published by the Georgia Department of Health

(https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/DPH%20ND%20Reporting%20Poster_032414.2.1.2_016.pdf), will be reported to Fulton County Public Health (CDPH) Epidemiology, phone: (404) 613-1205. These diseases include, but are not limited to, chickenpox, measles, pertussis, meningitis, hepatitis A, shigella, salmonella, mumps, T.B., E. coli, and hepatitis B, COVID-19, and influenza.

For COVID-19, health officials request the following information:

- Request lab copy from staff/parent to confirm case
- Report via email, fax, or phone
- Include: Name, Date of Birth, School/Grade/Class, other groups (i.e. sports team, bus, after school program), and last day at school/practice
- Line list of close contacts (< 6 feet for > 15 minutes)

Note: COVID-19 Cases are considered infections 2 days before symptom onset or 2 days before lab date if asymptomatic

Exclusion from School for Infections Disease Reasons

The guidelines below have been developed for the exclusion of students/employees who have communicable or contagious diseases.

- A student/employee with any of the following symptoms/criteria will be excluded from school until such time as they are free of symptoms, and have been satisfactorily treated, or submits a signed physician's statement that he/she is no longer contagious. Note that a quarantine of 14 days is recommended when someone has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - A temperature of 100 degrees or more. Student must be fever free for 24 hours, without medication, before re-entry
 - A deep, barking, unusually persistent cough/fits of coughing, or productive cough of colored mucous
 - An undetermined rash, blisters, or scaly patches over any part of the body
 - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. A student must be symptom free for 24 hours without medication before re-entry
 - Red, draining eyes
 - Sore throat with fever
 - Intense itching with signs and symptoms of secondary infection
 - Open, draining lesions
 - Jaundice-a yellowish tint to eyes or skin for unknown reason
 - Pain and/or swelling at angle of jaw

- An unusual behavior change such as irritability, lethargy, or listlessness
 - A positive COVID test
- The school will segregate the ill child from well children at the school until he/she can go home to limit the spread of disease.
 - Parents of children possibly exposed to infectious diseases, as well as staff, will be informed. The staff will watch for signs and symptoms of infectious diseases in classroom where one is identified.
 - The school will require ill employees to return home and seek medical care.
 - If any special accommodations are requested due to illness, the relevant parties should notify the School Leader.
 - All affected students/employees will be advised to seek counseling from a healthcare provider or the local health department.
 - If necessary, a plan and procedure will be developed for addressing the reported significant infectious disease in conjunction with and after consulting the County or State Health Department.

Infectious Disease Prevention Strategies

The school environment:

- Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces to reduce the risk of spreading infection.
 - If surfaces or objects are soiled with body fluids or blood, gloves and other standard precautions are to be used to avoid coming in contact with fluid. Remove spill, then the surface is to be cleaned and disinfected.
 - Custodians are called for episodes of vomiting, large amounts of blood, feces, or urine that contaminate the floor, carpet, or restroom to be cleaned by an approved disinfectant.
 - Disposable material soiled with vomit, blood, feces or other body fluid will be double bagged to throw away.
 - Extra attention to periodic vigilant cleaning will be utilized in common areas such as desks, tables, drinking fountains and in high touch areas, such as computer keyboards, doorknobs and handles, and telephones.
 - Kleenex and protective equipment such as gloves will be kept available.
- Staff will be reminded about infection control and blood borne infection control procedures annually.

Universal Precautions:

- A set of guidelines that assume all blood and certain other bodily potentially infectious. Universal precautions are to be followed when providing care to any individual whether or not the person is known to be infectious. These include:
 - Hand washing: Hand washing is one of the best tools for controlling the spread of infections. Hands are to be washed thoroughly with running water and soap for at least 15-20 seconds with scrubbing between fingers, under fingernails and around the tops and palms of hands. Hand washing should be done before and after eating, after using the restroom, after playing outside or sports, and after field trips to farms or places with animals. A shower is recommended for those students involved in contact sports as soon as possible
 - Personal protective equipment.
 - Gloves are to be used when in contact with blood or body fluids.

- Protective eyewear or masks should be worn in situations where it is possible body fluids could come in contact with eyes or mouth.

Cleaning:

- Blood or body spills are to be wiped up as soon as possible.
- Spills are to be double bagged and disposed of in trash.
- The area is to be cleaned with an approved disinfectant or bleach solution.
- All soiled clothing should be double bagged and sent home with person.

Immunizations:

- The state health regulations require students attending school to be up to date on all immunizations. A notarized waiver is required for a valid exemption (medical, religious, or personal exemption).
- The school will keep documentation of the immunization status of all students on file.
- If a reportable communicable disease is known, parents of students without that vaccine will be notified to check with their doctor regarding exclusion from school for a designated time.

Confidentiality and Retaliation

Every effort will be made to ensure confidentiality of information received as a part of this policy and to protect the privacy of all parties involved. School staff with knowledge of a person diagnosed with a notifiable condition may release that information only to others who are responsible for protecting the health of the public through control of disease (i.e. local health department). Retaliation against employees and/or students who report concerns is strictly prohibited and may be grounds for disciplinary action.