



**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BULLETIN**

TITLE: Students with HIV/AIDS Infection

NUMBER: BUL-4088

ISSUER: René Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent
Student Health and Human Services

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ROUTING
Local District Superintendents
Administrators
Principals
School Administrative Assistants
Physicians
Nurses

POLICY: The Los Angeles Unified School District shall strive to protect the safety and health of children and youth in our care as well as their families, our employees, and the general public.

The subject of school attendance by students with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was addressed at a regular meeting of the Board of Education in October 1985. The Board reaffirmed its existing policy on medical exclusion and readmission of students with communicable diseases as the means to deal with this new health issue. Subsequently, guidelines and procedures were developed for students that are consistent with Board policy. Similarly, guidelines and procedures were also developed for employees in accordance with Board Rule 1940-1955 regarding employee health standards. With the growing number of individuals diagnosed to have HIV or AIDS infection, it was desirable that the District develop a policy and guidelines/procedures relative to students with HIV/AIDS.

The risk of transmitting HIV is extremely low in school settings when current guidelines are followed. The spread of HIV infection in schools has not been documented and the fear of its communicability must be allayed by appropriate education of all school personnel. Participation in school provides a sense of normalcy for children and adolescents with HIV infection and offers opportunities for socialization that are important for their development. Several laws such as Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA), Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) have been enacted to improve the availability of services in schools, assist children with special health care needs to benefit optimally from the educational program, and prohibit discrimination based on disability.

MAJOR CHANGES: This Bulletin replaces Bulletin No. Z-70 dated August 1, 2001 of the same title. The changes reflect the updated contact information. This Bulletin deals with issues specifically related to students.



GUIDELINES: I. Confidentiality

Confidentiality is a legal and medical requirement. Students (families) are not required to disclose HIV infection status to anyone in the education system. Disclosure of the child's HIV status is done only with the informed consent of the parents/legal guardian and age-appropriate consent of the child.

No information regarding a person's HIV status will be divulged to any individual or organization without a Court Order or informed written, signed, and dated consent of the person with HIV infection (or the parent or guardian of a legal minor). The written consent must specify the name of the recipient of the information and the purpose for disclosure. A growing number of adolescents are choosing to exercise their right to be tested for HIV antibodies. Some of the youngsters also choose not to inform their parent(s) or guardian(s). In this case, if an HIV infected student informs a member of the school staff, that school staff person must be sure not to violate the student's right to keep this information confidential. Any disclosure of this information requires the student's specific, informed, written consent.

Anyone disclosing the results of an HIV antibody test without the written authorization of the subject or parent/legal guardian is subject to civil, and, in some cases, criminal penalties and can be liable for actual damages (California Health and Safety Code Sections 120980, 120975).

II. General Guidelines

A. School Attendance

Medical decisions relative to the attendance of students with HIV/AIDS at a school site will be based on the best medical knowledge available. HIV infected children should be admitted without restriction to childcare facilities and schools and allowed to participate in school activities to the extent their health permits. Children and youth with HIV/AIDS have the same rights as those without infection to attend school and participate in all programs and activities offered by the schools. These students should have access to special education and other related services in accord with their needs.



B. HIV Transmission

HIV is not transmitted through casual contact. The HIV transmission may occur as follows:

1. From a mother with HIV infection to her infant during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding;
2. Direct inoculation of infected blood or blood-containing tissues, including transfusion, transplantation of organ tissues, and use of contaminated needles or penetrating injuries with needles or sharp objects contaminated with blood; or
3. Intimate sexual contact with an infected partner (between sex partners) by contact with infected semen, vaginal or cervical secretions, or blood with mucosal surfaces.

C. Infection Control/Universal Precautions

In the best interest of health and safety concerns of all students and staff, it is imperative that proper measures for preventing the spread of all communicable diseases be practiced since the identity of persons with HIV/AIDS or other communicable diseases may not be known. All employees are required to consistently follow infection control guidelines in all settings and at all times, including playgrounds and school buses. Schools will follow the standards promulgated by the U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration for the prevention of blood-borne pathogens. All school personnel will be trained annually in the proper procedures for handling blood and body fluids and universal precautions, and must strictly adhere to these procedures (See BUL-1645, "Infection Control Guidelines for Preventing the Spread of Communicable Diseases," dated July 1, 2005.)

D. HIV Management in School Setting

Students with chronic illnesses, including HIV, may need medications administered during the school day. Established policies and procedures must be followed and confidentiality must be ensured. Some medications have special requirements. District policy and procedures should be followed when administering or assisting students with medications. (See BUL-3878.1, "Assisting Students with Prescribed Medication at School," dated September 24, 2007.) Irrespective of whether a person has HIV/AIDS, infection control procedures and universal precautions should be strictly followed at all times and in all situations where there is a potential for contact with blood and/or body fluids. This includes playground injuries and classroom incidents involving blood or body



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BULLETIN

fluids. In-service on infection control and universal precautions is provided annually. Contact District Nursing Services at 213-765-2800 for additional information. In case of any illness and/or concerns regarding the student's health during school hours, the student should be referred to the school nurse for an assessment, who, in turn, may seek medical consultation from Student Medical Services. The student's physician may need to be consulted if necessary.

E. Exposure to Illness

Parent/legal guardians should be informed when a possible exposure to a vaccine-preventable illness such as measles or varicella occurs in the school setting. Immuno-compromised students including those with HIV infection may need to be removed from school for their protection.

F. HIV and Athletics

Athletes with HIV infection should be permitted to participate in competitive sports at all levels. The privilege of participating in elective physical education classes, extracurricular activities, competitive sports, and recess is not conditioned by a person's HIV status. Physical education programs suitable for the needs of a developmentally disabled or chronically ill child, including those with HIV, should be available. School authorities will make accommodations to allow students with HIV infection to participate in school-sponsored physical activities. Athletes with HIV infection interested in participating in contact sports such as wrestling or football should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The athlete's physician should be involved in the decision regarding participation.

All employees must consistently adhere to infection control guidelines in locker rooms and all play and athletic settings. First aid kits and the infection control guidelines must be readily available. Student orientation about safety on the playing field will include guidelines for avoiding blood-borne pathogens. The guidelines for avoiding blood-borne pathogens should be included at the preseason "Rules Session" held at each school. Sports coaches must be aware of the guidelines regarding injuries that cause bleeding as indicated in the sports rulebooks.

III. Admission and Readmission of Students

Students should be evaluated on an individual basis to determine health risks, benefits, and the most appropriate educational placement. Assistance



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BULLETIN

in this evaluation may be obtained from the Director of Student Medical Services. The school physician may be requested to assist with the process. Open communication should be maintained between the District medical personnel and the student's private physician(s), especially after an absence due to illness or obvious health problems.

RELATED RESOURCES:

American Academy of Pediatrics: School Health Policy and Practice

National Association of State Boards of Education: *Someone at School has AIDS*

Nelson's Textbook of Pediatrics, 18th Edition

Pediatrics, June 2000, Volume 105, Number 6: Education of children with HIV infection

ASSISTANCE:

Consultation and in-service for District personnel regarding HIV/AIDS will be provided as needed.

For additional information call Director of Student Medical Services at (213) 765-2830, or Director of Student Nursing Services, at (213) 765-2800.

For additional information on preventive education, contact the HIV/AIDS Prevention Unit at (213) 241-3519 or (213) 241-3520.

For community resources, contact the AIDS Hotline at 800-367-AIDS or www.AIDSHotline.org.