



SECTION: 528

TITLE: COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION

# NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1	<b>I. PURPOSE</b>	The Board is committed to providing a safe, healthy environment for its	1
2		students and employees. The purpose of this policy shall be to safeguard the	2
3		health and well-being of students and employees while protecting the rights	3
4		of the individual.	4
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6	<b>II. DEFINITIONS</b>	<b>Communicable Disease</b> – is an illness which is capable of being spread to a	6
7		susceptible host through the direct or indirect transmission of an infectious	7
8		agent or its toxic products by an infected person, animal arthropod, or	8
9		through the inanimate environment.	9
10		<b>Body Fluids</b> – include blood, vomitus, saliva, wound drainage, feces, and	10
11	<b>PA School Code</b>	other bodily secretions.	11
12	<b>Title 28, Sec. 27.1</b>	<b>Universal Precautions</b> – refers to all steps necessary to protect oneself from	12
13		contact with infected bodily fluids and in all contact with others whether	13
14		or not infectious process is known or evident.	14
15		<b>CDC</b> – United States Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and	15
16		Prevention.	16
17		<b>Infected students</b> – refers to students diagnosed as having a known	17
18		communicable infectious process including those who are asymptomatic.	18
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20	<b>III. AUTHORITY</b>	This policy shall apply to all students in all programs conducted by	20
21		the school district.	21
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23		The Board directs that the established school rules that relate to illnesses and	23
24		other diseases among students shall also apply to infected students.	24
25			25
26		All students shall be immunized against specific diseases in accordance with	26
27		state law and regulations unless specifically exempt for religious, ethical or	27
28		medical reasons. A student who has not been immunized in accordance with	28
29		state regulations shall not be admitted to or permitted to attend District	29
30		schools, unless exempted for medical or religious reasons or provisionally	30
31		admitted by the Superintendent.	31
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1		<b>POLICY 528 (continued )</b>	1
2	IV.	The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible as the central contact for	2
3	DELEGATION OF	handling and releasing all information concerning communicable disease	3
4	RESPONSIBILITIES	in the schools. All District employees shall strive to maintain a respectful	4
5		school climate and to prohibit physical or verbal harassment of any	5
6		individual or group, including infected students. All employees shall be	6
7		required to consistently follow infection control/ universal precautions in all	7
8		settings and at all times, including playgrounds and school buses. Employees	8
9		shall notify the building principal of all incidents of exposure to bodily fluids	9
10		and when a student’s health condition or behavior presents a reasonable risk	10
11		of transmitting an infection. On an annual basis, building administrators	11
12		shall notify students, parents, and District employees about current Board	12
13		policies concerning communicable disease and shall provide reasonable	13
14		opportunities to discuss such policies and concerns.	14
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16		The Superintendent or a designee shall report periodically to the Board	16
17		regarding the effectiveness of this policy and shall make recommendations for	17
18		revision in accordance with developments in medical research and treatments.	18
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20	V. GUIDELINES	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	20
21	SC 1302	Infected students have the same right to school services as any other students	21
22		and shall be subject to the same policies and rules. First consideration must be	22
23		given to maintaining the health and safety of all students and staff. Any	23
24		decision for an alternative school placement must be supported by specific	24
25		facts and data. An infected student who is unable to attend school, as	25
26	SC 1310	determined by a medical examination, shall be considered for homebound	26
27		instruction or an alternative educational placement.	27
28			28
29	SC 1329, 1330	An infected student may be excused from school attendance if the parent or	29
30		guardian seeks such excuse based on the advice of medical or psychological	30
31		experts treating the student.	31
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33		Students who have been diagnosed by a physician or are suspected by the	33
34		school nurse of having a communicable condition shall be excluded from	34
35		school for the period indicated by Health Department regulations.	35
36			36
37	ACT 148 of 1990	<u>CONFIDENTIALITY</u>	37
38		The Superintendent or designee shall determine which school personnel will	38
39		receive information about an infected student. The number of individuals	39
40		informed of an infected student’s status shall be kept to the minimum required	40
41		to assure proper care and supervision of the infected student as well as to	41
42		protect the school population. Anonymity shall have high priority. All	42
43		District employees who have knowledge of a student’s health status have a	43
44		duty to preserve the confidentiality of all information.	44
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46		Information about infected students in the school setting shall not be disclosed	46
47		to anyone beyond those with a need to know without a court order or the	47
48		informed, written, signed and dated consent of the infected student or his/her	48
49		parent or guardian if a legal minor.	49

1		<b>POLICY 528 (continued)</b>	1
2	SC 1409	All health records, notes and other documents referring to a student's health	2
3	Title 28, Sec .27.2	status shall be secured and kept confidential.	3
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5		<b><u>INFECTION CONTROL</u></b>	5
6		Universal precautions, as recommended by the CDC, shall be followed for	6
7		exposure to bodily fluids.	7
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9		Employees shall treat all bodily fluids as hazardous and follow universal	9
10		precautions.	10
11			11
12	OSHA	The school district shall maintain and keep reasonably accessible all	12
13	Guidelines	equipment and supplies necessary for infection control.	13
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15		<b><u>STAFF DEVELOPMENT</u></b>	15
16		When scheduled by the Board of School Directors or the Superintendent,	16
17		district employees shall participate in Communicable Disease education	17
18		programs that:	18
19		• convey factual and current information.	19
20		• provide guidance on infection control procedures.	20
21		• inform about current law and district policies concerning Communicable	21
22		Diseases.	22
23		• assist staff to maintain productive parent and community relations.	23
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25		Designated district employees may receive additional, specialized training	25
26		appropriate to their positions and responsibilities.	26
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28	TITLE 22	Parents and guardians shall be provided convenient opportunities to preview	28
29	SEC. 5.220 (c)	all health curricula and materials.	29
30	Pol. 105.1, 105.2		30
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33	RSM/ms		33
34	Approved: 3/25/86		34
35	Revised: 5/17/86		35
36	Revised: 7/26/88		36
37	Revised: 5/25/99		37
38	Reviewed: 9/2003		38
39	Rev/App: 11/2010		39
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