

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Communicable Diseases
Code	203
Status	Active
Adopted	December 15, 2021

### **Authority**

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, the Joint Operating Committee requires that guidance and orders from state and local health officials, established Joint Operating Committee policy and administrative regulations, and Joint Operating Committee-approved health and safety plans be followed by students, parents/guardians and school staff.[\[1\]](#)

### **Guidelines**

The Joint Operating Committee directs that students who have been diagnosed by a physician or are suspected of having a disease by the school nurse shall be excluded from school for the period indicated by regulations of the PA Department of Health or guidance from state or local health officials for specified diseases and infectious conditions.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

Parents/Guardians shall be notified of this policy at the beginning of the school year, and that during the school year it may be necessary for a student to be excluded from school due to communicable disease. Parents/Guardians of a student needing to be excluded shall be notified and required to come to the school or have a designated emergency contact come to the school to transport the student home or to an appropriate place of care. Students may return to the school when the criteria for readmission following a communicable disease, as set forth in law, regulations or guidance from state or local health officials, have been met.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

The Joint Operating Committee directs school staff to request emergency contact information from parents/guardians of students at the beginning of each school year and request that it be updated as necessary during the school year.

The school nurse shall report the presence of suspected communicable diseases to the appropriate local health authority, as required by the PA Department of Health.[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)

The Administrative Director or designee shall direct that health guidelines, Joint Operating Committee-approved health and safety plans, and universal precautions designed to minimize the transmission of communicable diseases be implemented in the school.

### **Health Records**

A comprehensive health record shall be maintained for each student enrolled in the school, in coordination with the student's school district of residence. The record shall include the results of required tests, measurements, screenings, regular and special examinations, and medical questionnaires.[\[5\]](#)[\[9\]](#)

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/guardian. The school may disclose information from health records to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency when necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals, in accordance with applicable law and Joint Operating Committee policy.[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)

## Health Monitoring

The Joint Operating Committee directs school staff to monitor student health in accordance with applicable Joint Operating Committee policy and the Joint Operating Committee-approved health and safety plan.

A student may request an alternative method of monitoring as a religious accommodation, and designated school staff shall assess and respond to such request in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Joint Operating Committee policy. A request for an accommodation that would unreasonably impair safety or cause undue hardship will not be granted.[16]

A student with a health condition that may render a monitoring method ineffective should notify designated staff so that alternative or supplemental methods may be considered.[16][17]

Students who may be exhibiting symptoms that indicate health concerns shall be referred to the school nurse or designated staff for further assessment and response, in accordance with Joint Operating Committee policy.

### Legal

1. 24 P.S. 1850.1
2. 28 PA Code 27.71
3. 28 PA Code 27.72
4. Pol. 204
5. Pol. 209
6. 28 PA Code 27.1
7. 28 PA Code 27.2
8. 28 PA Code 27.23
9. 24 P.S. 1402
10. 24 P.S. 1409
11. 20 U.S.C. 1232g
12. 34 CFR Part 99
13. Pol. 113.3
14. Pol. 216
15. Pol. 805
16. Pol. 103
17. Pol. 103.1
- 24 P.S. 1303a
- 22 PA Code 11.20
- 28 PA Code 23.81 et seq
- Pol. 201
- Pol. 251