

RATIONALE

The Catholic Independent Schools of Nelson Diocese (CISND) will provide a safe school environment with regards to blood borne pathogens while respecting the rights of medical confidentiality of students and employees.

POLICY

Students, families, and staff will not be discriminated against because of having a blood-borne pathogen infection.

DEFINITION

Blood borne pathogens – any pathogen that can be transmitted from one person to another through blood (examples would include HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C). These pathogens may also be transmitted through other body fluids at times, dependent on the type of body fluid and nature of exposure.

REGULATIONS

1. The CISND recognizes and respects the rights of all students and employees as defined in law and school policies and recognizes its obligation to promote the safe delivery of educational services.
2. As blood-borne pathogens cannot be transmitted in the course of the usual interactions in the school, discriminatory acts against a student infected with blood-borne pathogens are unacceptable.
3. A non-infected student shall not be excluded from school because of a blood-borne pathogen infected family member.
4. As there is no significant safety hazard to others in the school setting from individuals with blood-borne pathogen infections, the CISND supports the right for:
 - illness-challenged employees to continue working if duties of employment are satisfactorily fulfilled;

- illness-challenged students to pursue activities which their condition allows, including continuing attendance at school.
5. There is no onus or responsibility for a student and their family, or an employee, to disclose to the CISND or Administration that they have a chronic blood-borne pathogen infection.
 6. If a student and their family or an employee voluntarily decide to disclose that they have a blood-borne pathogen infection to school staff, that information will be held confidential and not shared further without the student/family's or employee's written consent.
 7. Educational programs will be made available for both employees and students in order to increase awareness and knowledge of blood-borne pathogens. These programs must cover the means of transmission and means of increasing protection from blood-borne pathogens. All students will be informed of the procedures to follow when they encounter blood and/or bodily fluid contact situations. The principal will review annually with staff the safety procedures for dealing with potential blood-borne pathogen exposures.
 8. Since blood or body fluids may potentially carry blood-borne pathogens agents, school staff will follow "Standard Precautions" policy 5411 in dealing with cleaning and disposing of blood and body fluid contact situations.

Note: The definitions and procedures set out in this policy and regulations are subject to current medical knowledge and will be updated as required in consultation with the Medical Health Officer from Interior Health Authority.

Date Approved: October 2007
Date(s) Revised:
Date Reviewed: August 2023