

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

General

At different times of the year, there are communicable diseases in circulation in the community at large and thus may also be in the school population. The District will work in consultation with the Fraser Health on any issues relating to communicable diseases.

Treatment of a Staff Member

- Any staff member who is ill or exhibiting signs or symptoms of a communicable disease needs to be referred to the First Aid attendant for appropriate assessment.
- First Aid attendant will treat the ill person for any immediate concerns and will make recommendations as to the need to seek medical attention.
- First Aid Attendant will not provide any definitive diagnosis or speculation as to what may be causing the staff member to be ill.

Release of Medical Information

- If the School staff or administrator is informed by a parent or legal guardian that a student has a communicable disease, the parent/legal guardian should be informed that the School Nurse from Fraser Health may be contacting them for details of the disease.
- If the disclosure is made to school staff, the staff must contact the Administrator immediately. DO NOT disclose the information to anyone else.
- School Administrator is to call the School Nurse or Langley Public Health Unit (604-539-2900) for advice and assistance on particular communicable diseases (refer to Communicable Disease Quick Reference Guide) and be prepared to provide the students name, contact information for parent/legal guardian, and the grade the student is in. School Administrator is to notify all staff of confirmation of particular communicable diseases (refer to Communicable Disease Quick Reference Guide)
- Fraser Health will confirm the diagnosis that the parent/legal guardian has disclosed to the school if required and Health will determine if and when staff and students at the school need to be informed.
- Fraser Health will provide information concerning the re-entry of the ill student to school and any special cleaning that may be required.

Communicable Disease vs Infestations

Students or staff may be infested with a pest that is not considered to be a health risk to others and thus they cannot be barred from attending school or working. If there is any doubt about a student/staff remaining at the school contact Fraser Health if required.

Schools may be provided with a letter to be sent home with students stating the infestation that has been identified and the precautions that the parents should take. Parents/legal guardians are urged to provide the information to the school that their child has an infestation so that the school will remind the students about practices to prevent transmitting the infestations (i.e. not sharing hats or combs).

Examples of infestations that is common in the community that will not automatically bar a student from attending are, but is not limited to lice, bed bugs, etc.

If a student appears to be not getting treatment for or appears to have a continuing or frequent infestations the School Nurse should be contacted to provide assistance/support to the student and their family.

