

# Seaman USD #345 Communicable Disease Policy

## **Prevention and Control:**

*To prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases among students, school personnel, visitors and other parties associated with the school.*

It is the responsibility of the school district health services staff to implement regulations for the control of communicable diseases within the school district. It is also the responsibility of the school district health services staff to inform students, parents and school personnel of these regulations pertaining to the control of communicable diseases as established and printed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Shawnee County Health Agency.

## **Exclusions of Persons**

The authority to exclude for health reasons is delegated to the Superintendent of Schools, School Administrators and their designees by the Board of Education or the Shawnee County Health Officer, in accordance with the general statutes of the State of Kansas. This policy applies to students and persons working in the Unified School District.

## **Role of the School Nurse and Health Staff in the Seaman USD #345 school district:**

The school nurse role in control of communicable disease is multifaceted. Of utmost importance is the safety of individuals, including monitoring of state mandated immunizations and early surveillance and identification of outbreaks and/or serious illness including a Bioterrorism threat. Inherent in the process is the attempt to decrease student absenteeism and thereby promote student learning and academic success. All of this is accomplished by the school nurse being knowledgeable regarding state and local laws, using nursing assessment skills, and reporting identified communicable diseases to the proper authorities.

The Director of Health Services needs to be notified whenever:

- The number of students absent primarily due to illness is **15% or more** of the total student population
- And/or the number of students absent primarily due to illness **increases by 5% or more** of the total population on any given day

The Health Services Director will notify the district superintendent of increase in absences, and will notify the Shawnee County Health Agency if **25% or more** of the total student population are absent due to illness.

## **Role of the Shawnee County Health Department:**

The Shawnee County Health Department collaborates with the Seaman USD #345 school district to identify and report diseases. They provide consultation and information to the district health staff during disease outbreaks within the city/county. They coordinate with Kansas Department of Health & Environment as needed.

## **Role of Kansas Department of Health & Environment:**

Reportable diseases in Kansas for health care providers, schools, hospitals, and laboratories (K.S.A. 65-118, 65-128, K.A.R. 28-1-2 and 28-1-18) are mandated and collaboration between local school district, county health and state agency must occur to ensue communicable disease information is reported and symptom surveillance is occurring.

6/06; 12/14