



**Subject:** Infectious Diseases and Health-Related School Closures

**Effective Date:** March 12, 2020

**Approved By:** Board of Directors

**Policy:** 5004.1

Springs' Governing Board and Administration desire to protect students and staff from risks posed by exposure to infectious diseases while providing an appropriate education for all students. School leadership recognizes that prevention and education are the most effective means of limiting the spread of infectious diseases.

The Superintendent or designee shall cooperate with all local health agencies to develop a comprehensive approach to disease prevention that promotes preventative measures and education of students and staff.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's health education program provides information about the prevention of infectious diseases, including the nature of blood borne pathogens and their transmission, as well as information to help prevent the spread of contagious diseases, such as a pandemic influenza. He/she shall also ensure that each school has sufficient infection prevention supplies that are easily accessible to staff.

Students and staff shall observe universal precautions in order to prevent exposure to blood borne pathogens and to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform students of the precautions to be used in cases of exposure to blood or other body fluids through injury, accident, or classroom instruction.

### **Students with Infectious Diseases**

The Superintendent or designee shall exclude students only in accordance with the law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. Because blood borne pathogens such as hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are not casually transmitted, the presence of infectious conditions of this type is not, by itself, sufficient reason to exclude students from attending school.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to inform the Superintendent or designee if their child has an infectious disease so that school staff may work cooperatively with the student's parents/guardians to minimize the child's exposure to other diseases in the school setting. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that student confidentiality rights are strictly observed in accordance with the law.

### **Health-Related School Closures**

In the event that an infectious disease poses a clear risk to the health of students and/or staff, a decision may be necessary to close the facility. In the event of a campus closure, the Superintendent or designee will coordinate all enrollment, instructional, health-related considerations, facilities related considerations, communication and notification to parents, staff, and community, environmental and safety considerations in conjunction with Springs' Health Services and California Department of Health Services.