Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is one of a number of communicable diseases which require special precautions to prevent transmission in the school environment. Because there is no cure for AIDS and because it is a life-threatening disease, it is imperative that specialized procedures be followed in the management of a student who is diagnosed as a carrier of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). This policy addresses admission and management of students with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

NATURE OF THE VIRUS

AIDS is a disease which disables the body from fighting infection. The cause of the disease is infection by HIV. Two categories of outcomes result from infection by HIV. AIDS is the more severe form of the infection. The second, and most common, form of infection by HIV causes the affected person to be an Asymptomatic Carrier, having no symptoms but still believed capable of transmitting the virus to others. Based upon the medical evidence presently available, it appears that both of the two levels or stages of HIV infection are contagious under certain conditions.

TRANSMISSION OF HIV

HIV (unlike many other communicable diseases) is not believed by most medical authorities to be transmissible through casual contact in the normal school environment. Present medical knowledge indicates that HIV is transmitted by the introduction of the virus into the blood stream through sexual contact, sharing of hypodermic needles among intravenous drug users, receiving blood transfusions from infected individuals, or at birth. Pending further research, however, any spill of body fluid (blood, tears, semen, saliva, vomitus, urine, or excrement) by an HIV-infected individual should be considered as a possible source of infection.

CLEANUP OF BODY FLUIDS

Since it is not always known whether a student is infected with HIV, the district will follow the requirements of the Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan in all situations requiring the cleanup of body fluids.

REFERRAL OF STUDENTS DIAGNOSED WITH HIV/AIDS

When school administrators learn that a student may have HIV or AIDS, the Superintendent may refer the matter to the Oklahoma State Health Department and request that it convene a multi-disciplinary team for evaluation and recommendation to the school for placement of the student. The student’s parents or legal guardian, legal representative or legal custodian, the student’s physician, a representative of the Superintendent, a representative of the Oklahoma State Health Department, and a representative of the State Department of Education may be included in the multi-disciplinary team.

If the case is verified by medical authorities as HIV or AIDS and if there is a possibility that other students or employees might become infected from the student, the Superintendent is authorized to arrange a safe, temporary placement for the student until permanent arrangements can be made.

If an alternative educational program is required, the program will be established in the least restrictive environment possible.

The principal is to establish a separate file on that student to which only he/she and those identified employees are to have access. No entry regarding the HIV or AIDS condition is to be made on the student’s cumulative record, health card, the computerized student database, or any other record.

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