

TENNESSEE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION		
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES		6403
ADOPTED: April 9, 2021	REVISED: July 26, 2024	MONITORING: Review: Annually

No student in an authorized charter school shall be denied an education solely because of a communicable disease, and his/her educational program shall be restricted only to the extent necessary to minimize the risk of transmitting the disease. Parents/guardians of students with communicable diseases shall inform appropriate school officials of the infection so that proper precautions for the protection of other students, employees, and the infected student shall be taken.

If a school leader has reason to believe a student has a communicable disease that may endanger the health of either him/herself or other individuals in the regular school setting, the school leader shall:

- (1) Assign the student to a setting which will protect other students, employees and the student him/herself; or
- (2) Exclude the student from school until certification is obtained from a physician or the county health department by either the parent or school leader stating that the disease is no longer communicable.¹

If the school leader has reason to believe that the student has a long-term communicable disease, the school leader must require confirmation from a physician or the county health department as to the student’s condition. If the student is confirmed to have a long-term communicable disease, the school leader may refer the student for homebound instruction, special education services, and/or 504 accommodations if appropriate to the situation.

Parents/guardians of students who have been excluded from school shall meet with the school leader and school nurse prior to returning to school to ensure that the proper physician or county health department certificate has been provided, and that the student’s transition back to school is appropriate.

The names of all students excluded from school under this policy shall be forwarded to the office of the Director of Schools.

Distribution of Information About Meningococcal Disease and Influenza.² Schools shall provide parents and guardians with information about meningococcal disease and the effectiveness of vaccination against meningococcal disease at the beginning of every school year. This information shall include the causes, symptoms and means by which meningococcal disease is spread and the places where parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a school to provide or purchase vaccine against meningococcal disease.

Schools shall provide parents and guardians with information about influenza disease and the effectiveness of vaccination against influenza at the beginning of every school year. This information must include the causes, symptoms, and means by which influenza is spread and the places where parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children. Nothing in this section requires a school to provide or purchase vaccine against influenza.

Legal References

¹ T.C.A. § 49-2-203(b)(2)

² T.C.A. § 49-6-5005

Cross References

LEA Policy 1802 ADA and Section 504

LEA Policy 6404 Students Living with HIV or AIDS