

**District:** Tupelo Public School District  
**Section:** J - Students  
**Policy Code:** JGCC - Communicable Diseases

## **BOARD POLICY**

1. The Tupelo Public School District will work cooperatively with the Mississippi Health Department to prevent, control, and contain the spread of communicable and infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, in schools.
2. The superintendent has the authority and obligation under the Mississippi State Board of Health Rules and Regulations Governing Reportable Diseases to exclude a student from school when reliable evidence or information from a qualified source confirms his/her having a communicable disease or infection that is known to spread by any form of casual contact and is considered a health threat to the school population. Such a student shall be excluded unless a licensed physician approves school attendance or the condition is no longer considered contagious.
  - 3.1. All persons privileged with any medical information that pertains to students shall be required to treat all proceedings, discussions, and documents as confidential information.
  - 3.2. Before any medical information is shared with anyone in the school setting, a "Need to Know" review shall be made which includes the parent/guardian, student if over 18, or his/her representative.
  - 3.3. Disciplinary action will be taken against any person who discloses the fact of an individual's HIV/AIDS infection or other communicable disease or infection to anyone other than those designated in the policy.
4. Instruction on the principal modes by which communicable diseases, including, but not limited to, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) are spread and the best methods for the restriction and prevention of these diseases shall/should be taught to students.
5. The Board authorizes the superintendent to establish administrative procedures in furtherance of this policy.

Last Review Date: 7/2021  
Review History: 3/2021, 7/2020

## **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE**

1. Irrespective of disease presence, routine procedures shall be used; and adequate sanitation facilities will be available for handling blood or other body fluids within the school setting or on school buses.
  - 2.1. After being absent due to a contagious or infectious disease, a student may be required to have a note from a doctor or health official in order to return to school.
  - 2.2. It will be mandatory for students to have a note from a doctor or health official after having German Measles, Red Measles, Mumps, or Hepatitis.

2.3. Students who become sick will wait in the isolation room until parents arrive.

2.4. After being absent due to a having one of the following health conditions, directions should be followed as stated below:

- Pink eye - may return when eye is not draining
- Chicken Pox - may return on the 6th day after the onset of the rash
- Scabies (Itch or Body Lice) - must have proof of treatment
- Strep Throat – may return 24 hours after treatment has been started if free of fever

### **3. COVID-19**

The District follows guidance from the Mississippi Department of Health (MDH) and the County Health Department relative to COVID-19.[i] MDH encourages all eligible staff/students 12 years of age and older to receive COVID-19 vaccination.

3.1. Any students/staff who are showing COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home and should seek medical care. Known symptoms include, but are not limited to:

- Fever (100.0 or higher) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea[ii]

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

### **3.2. If You Test Positive for COVID-19 -> ISOLATE**

- Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:
  - Stay home for 5 days.
  - If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.
  - Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- Upon notice, the District will close off areas used by the infected person and not reopen until appropriate cleaning and disinfection have occurred.
- The school nurse or designee will inform those in the school setting (including the parent/guardian of an impacted student) who have had close contact (defined below) to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws will be maintained.

### **3.3. If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 -> QUARANTINE**

A. If you have (i) been boosted, or (ii) completed the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months, or (iii) completed the J&J vaccine within the last 2 months:

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days and test on day 5, if possible.
- *If symptoms develop, get tested and stay home.*

B. If you (i) completed the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted, or (ii) completed the J&J vaccine over 2 months ago and are not boosted, or (iii) are unvaccinated:

- Stay home for 5 days. After that, continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.
- *If symptoms develop, get tested and stay home.*

3.4 “Close contact” means 15 minutes of cumulative contact over a 24-hour period of an infected person with the following exceptions:

- Fully vaccinated persons in close contact with an infected person do NOT have to quarantine or get tested unless they develop symptoms. Proof of vaccination will be required. A person is fully vaccinated two weeks after completed shot protocol.
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- In the indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes individuals who were between 3-6 feet if they were both correctly and consistently wearing a mask.
- People who are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated should quarantine and get tested 3-5 days after exposure. If symptoms develop during quarantine, they should isolate and get tested immediately.

3.5. Fully vaccinated individuals coming into close contact with someone with COVID-19 are not required to quarantine unless symptoms develop. They should get tested 3-5 days after exposure to someone with COVID-19 and wear a mask indoors in public. If symptoms develop, they should isolate and get tested immediately.

3.6. The school nurse will be available to consult with students and their parents or guardians. Please address all COVID-19 concerns with your school nurse. The school nurse will regularly update the superintendent as to the number of students who are positive for COVID-19 and the number of students who are quarantined. The District will not implement contact tracing protocol when the cafeteria is fully operational to students.

3.7. The Human Resources Department will regularly update the superintendent as to the number of employees who are quarantined or teleworking.

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[i] MSDH COVID-19 information hotline - #1-877-978-6453

[ii] The CDC will continue to update this list as more becomes known about COVID-19.

[iii] The Mississippi State Department of Health will then contact with the Contact Tracers for the county that the positive patient resides. The Contact Tracers will do an investigation with the patient and ask him/her to think of all persons that the patient has

been around (6 feet or less for 15 minutes). The Contact Tracer contacts all of those persons to let them know that they have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. \*Because of HIPPA laws, the Contact Tracer does not reveal the name of the patient that tested positive. They tell each contact that they have been exposed what steps they should follow and should quarantine the number of days.

**Adopted Date:** 6/26/2012

**Approved/Revised Date:**