

HIV/AIDS-Students

Bon Homme School District shall strive to protect the safety and health of children and youth in our care, as well as their families, our employees, and the general public. Staff members shall cooperate with public health authorities to promote these goals.

The evidence is overwhelming that the risk of transmitting human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is extremely low in school settings when current guidelines are followed. The presence of a person living with HIV infection or diagnosed with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) poses no significant risk to others in school, day care, or school athletic settings.

A student with HIV infection has the same right to attend school and receive services as any other student, and will be subject to the same rules and policies. HIV infection shall not factor into decisions concerning class assignments, privileges, or participation in any school sponsored activity.

The appropriate school administrator(s) will determine the educational placement of a student known to be infected with HIV on a case-by-case basis by following established procedures for students with chronic health problems or students with disabilities. The appropriate administrator will consult with the student's physician and parent or guardian; respect the student's and family's privacy rights; and reassess the placement if there is a change in the student's need for accommodations or services.

Pupils or staff members are not required to disclose HIV infection status to anyone in the education system. HIV antibody testing is not required for any purpose.

Every student has a duty to treat as highly confidential any knowledge or speculation concerning the HIV status of a student or staff member. Violation of medical privacy is cause for disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, and/or personal liability for a civil suit. The privilege of participating in physical education classes, athletic programs, competitive sports, and recess is not conditional on a person's HIV status. School authorities will make reasonable accommodations to allow students living with HIV infection to participate in school-sponsored physical activities.

All students and staff must consistently adhere to infection control guidelines in locker rooms and all play and athletic settings. First aid kits are recommended to be on hand or within a reasonable distance at athletic events. Student orientation about playground safety and activities participation should include guidelines for avoiding HIV infection.

Students will have access to voluntary, confidential, age, and developmentally appropriate counseling about matters related to HIV infection. The appropriate administrator will maintain confidential linkage and referral mechanisms to facilitate voluntary student access to appropriate HIV counseling and testing programs, and to other HIV-related services as needed.

Adopted: November 1999

Revised: July 12, 2010