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| **Germantown Municipal School District** | | | |
| Monitoring:  **Review: Annually, in September** | Descriptor Term:  **Student Communicable Diseases** | Descriptor Code:  **6.403** | Issued Date:  **08/25/20** |
| Rescinds:  **6.403** | Revised:  **11/17/14** |

A “communicable disease” is an illness due to an infectious agent or its toxic products which is transmitted directly or indirectly to a person from an infected person or animal, or through the agency of an intermediate animal host, vector, or inanimate environment.

No student 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 or guardians of infected students 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.

No student with a communicable disease which may endanger the health of either himself/herself or other individuals shall enter or remain in the regular school setting.1,2 If a school principal has reason to believe a student has a communicable disease, which may endanger the health of either himself/herself or other individuals in the regular school setting, the principal shall:

1. Notify the Coordinator of School Health
2. Assign the student to a setting which will protect other students, employees and the student himself; or
3. Exclude the student from school until certification is obtained from a physician or the County Health Department by either the parent or principal stating that the disease is no longer communicable.

If the principal has reason to believe that the student has a long-term communicable disease, the principal 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 principal shall refer the student for special education services.1

The principal may request that further examinations be conducted by a physician or County Health Department and may request periodic re-examinations after the student has been readmitted to the school.2

Upon the declaration of the Superintendent of a communicable disease outbreak, protective masks shall be worn by all GMSD students while inside GMSD buildings and while outdoors on GMSD property, except when they are eating or drinking. For legitimate educational, safety or health reasons, Principals are granted the authority to excuse the mask wearing requirement.

Students participating in or attending TSSAA sports shall follow TSSAA guidelines regarding communicable diseases.

Failure or refusal to wear a protective mask, unless granted an exception by the Principal, shall subject the student to disciplinary action.

**Re-Admission**

If the suspected condition is found not to exist the Principal or designee may readmit the student.

In the case of a communicable disease, the student may be readmitted on presentation of a written statement from a physician, and/or completion of the period of exclusion required by the State Department of Public Health.

In the case of ringworm, impetigo, or scabies the student may be readmitted once the treatment has begun and proof of treatment is presented to the school nurse or Principal designee.

In the case of Pediculosis (Head Lice) a student may be readmitted after inspection by the school nurse or Principal designee, following proof of treatment and no live Pediculosis found.

The names of all students excluded from school under this policy shall be forwarded to the Office of Coordinated School Health.

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| Legal References | Cross References |
| 1. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.08(2)(c) 2. TCA 49-2-203(b)(2) | Special Education 4.202 Special Programs 4.206 |