

**Communicable or Life-Threatening Diseases**

**A. Purpose**

This procedure establishes a mutually-beneficial process between an ill employee and the District to insure that the health or safety of the employee, students and other employees is protected.

**B. Identification of Ill Employees**

Employees affected by a communicable or life-threatening disease or illness may be identified through self-report, or on the basis of the District having a reasonable belief that a staff member is ill. Reasonable belief would exist in, but is not limited to, situations where the employee's health is observed to be deteriorating to the point of interfering with the performance of his/her duties, the employee displays persistent physical symptoms of illness, where the District becomes aware of a diagnosis of such an illness or disease, or where there is other reasonable evidence of the existence of such disease.

If a supervisor has been informed or has reasonable cause to believe that an employee is affected by a communicable or life-threatening disease or illness, the supervisor will immediately notify the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. The Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources or his/her designee may confer with, but not limited to, the supervisor, the Executive Director of Instruction for that school, the staff member, and the Superintendent of Schools for determination of fitness as provided in Section D below.

**C. Verification of Illness or Disease**

The Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources or designee will take reasonable steps to verify the existence or non-existence of a communicable or life-threatening disease. This will be determined by a review of medical reports, files, diagnostic testing, hospital records, and/or consultation with physicians or other medical personnel as may be deemed necessary.

**D. Determination of Fitness for Continued Duty**

In the event an employee is affected by a communicable or life-threatening disease or illness, recommendations regarding the employee's fitness for continued duty and contact with students and other staff will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. The recommendations will be based on, but not limited to:

1. Medical reports regarding the condition of the employee;
2. The type of duties and interaction in the work place required of the employee in performance of his/her assignment;
3. The impact of continued employment on the affected employee, students and others

in the work place;

4. Consideration of “reasonable accommodations” in the employment of the affected employee pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act when applicable, and
5. Input and recommendations from public health officials and others.

Recommendations will be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools for review and action.

**E. Return to Duty**

If an ill staff member is determined to be fit for continued duty, the supervisor will be informed of the employee’s medical condition, the reasonable accommodations/ precautions, if any, to be observed in the work setting, and any other factors that would warrant the reconsideration of continued duty. A regular schedule of medical examinations or evaluations for continued employment may be required.

**F. Termination of Employment**

If a staff member is determined to be unfit for continued duty, he/she will be entitled to the use of accumulated paid sick leave, sick leave bank provisions (if applicable), and medical leave of absence as outlined in district policy.

After all leave options are exhausted and the employee is still not deemed fit to resume duties, employment will be terminated by the employee’s resignation or retirement, or by Board of Education action including initiation of dismissal proceedings under applicable Colorado Statute or District policies subject to the usual appeals by the employee.

**G. Confidentiality**

All information gained by the District through the application of this procedure, including the identity of an employee, will be treated as confidential except as necessary to implement this procedure. Information will not be released publicly by officials of the school district without the written consent of the affected employee.

The adoption of this procedure does not create any right claim or cause of action against the District or its employees where such right claim or cause of action does not otherwise exist in the absence hereof

Approved by Superintendent, Jim S. Huge, June 13, 1988