

## Administrative Procedure 4040

### ***Communicable Diseases***

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**Board Governance Policy Cross Reference:** [1, 12, 13](#)

**Administrative Procedures Cross Reference:**

[Emergency Preparedness](#)

[Pandemic Plan](#)

**Form Cross Reference:**

[Head Lice Letter](#)

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**Legal/Regulatory Reference:**

[The Public Health Act](#)

[The Public Schools Act](#), sections 41(1)(m), 96(1)(e), 232(1), 232(2), 233, 234, 235, 261(2)

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The Interlake School Division (ISD) strives to ensure safe environments for children that attend schools in the Division. The Division adheres to the requirements of [The Public Health Act](#) and [The Public Schools Act](#) as it applies to communicable diseases.

A "communicable disease", "contagious disease" or "infectious disease", as defined by The Public Health Act, means illness due to a specific infectious agent or its toxic products which arises through transmission either directly or indirectly from an infected person or animal. Communicable diseases include such diseases as tuberculosis, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, meningitis, typhus, typhoid fever, scarlet fever and hantavirus.

Schools are asked to remind students to wash their hands after the use of washroom facilities and to ensure that soap and a clean method of hand-drying are available for student use.

If a teacher or other staff member believes that a student has been exposed to, or is suffering from, a communicable disease spread by sneezing or coughing, he/she should notify the Principal. The Principal, in turn, must notify local health authorities if he/she has reason to believe that a student attending the school has been exposed to or is suffering from a communicable disease.

Upon being notified that an order has been made under [The Public Health Act](#) that requires a student to refrain from attending school, the student must be excluded from attendance at school, and cannot resume attendance at that or any other school while the order is in effect.

The refusal or neglect of parents or guardians to obtain proper treatment (medical or otherwise) for a child that has or is suspected to have a communicable disease is deemed to be a violation of [The Public Schools Act](#). This violation is a summary conviction offence and parents/guardians could be fined.

Please refer staff and parents to [Contagious Childhood Illnesses – A Guide for Schools and Daycares](#), a document published by the Interlake-Eastern RHA, Public Health. This document has been placed on the Division website for public access.

### **Head Lice**

The Principal and staff of each school are responsible for maintaining a monitoring of head lice in the school. Lice problems are afflictions that can be obtained by any person. To protect the general population, procedures need to be implemented so the problem can be controlled and monitored. As a result, the following procedures are to be followed:

1. Schools will send information to parents regarding Contagious Childhood Illnesses – A Guide for Schools and Daycares at the beginning of each school year.
2. Upon identification of lice/nits in a student's hair, the parent/guardian will be contacted to take the child home for treatment. Clothes and other materials that have potential to transmit lice will be packaged to be sent home with the student. Parent/Guardians will be provided with contact information for the community health office or public health nurse if they have any questions.
3. The parents/guardians of all the children in the class will be advised via [Head Lice Letter](#) to check their child's hair.
4. A child treated for lice may return to school the next day, provided the lice/nit treatment has occurred. The child's hair may be checked to verify if additional treatment is necessary.