

VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

SUPERINTENDENT POLICY NO. 3514.5

ADOPTED: 02/14/96

CLASSIFICATION: General Administrative Policies

REVISED:

**SUBJECT: Communicable, Contagious or Infectious Disease
Control for all Employees of the
Ventura County Office of Education**

The County Superintendent of Schools fully recognizes that each employee must be physically and mentally able to perform duties and responsibilities of his/her position. The County Superintendent of Schools fully recognizes the responsibility to take reasonable actions to protect the safety and welfare of students, employees, and visitors in schools and programs operated by the County Office of Education.

Actions taken regarding employees infected with a serious communicable or infectious disease shall be made on a case-by-case basis after factual inquiry. No employee infected with a severe communicable, contagious, or infectious disease shall be excluded from the workplace in offices, schools, and programs operated by the County Office of Education unless the results of the individual review and evaluation are that the presence of the employee will be harmful to the welfare of the employee, other employees or pupils, or there are compelling reasons to lawfully exclude the employee.

It is the intent of the County Superintendent of Schools to cooperate with local health authorities, other governmental agencies, school and community college districts, employees, students, parents/guardians, and community members to promulgate educational materials, inservice training, and recommended procedures for the prevention and control of severe communicable, contagious, or infectious diseases.

The County Superintendent of Schools or a designee shall be the authorized spokesperson for general information relating to severe communicable, contagious, or infectious diseases. In matters relating to specified employees, legal counsel for the County Superintendent of Schools shall be the only authorized spokesperson.

The County Superintendent of Schools shall develop administrative regulations that ensure:

Confidentiality of medical information, as required by law.

Rights to privacy for the individual, as required by law.

Due process for the individual, as required by law.

Dissemination of preventive disease control information and resources.

Inservice training in disease prevention techniques.

Implementation of precautionary procedures for the prevention and control of communicable, contagious, or infectious diseases.

This policy will also be applied before any applicant who is known to have a communicable, contagious or infectious disease is rejected for employment by reason of that communicable, contagious or infectious disease.

The County Superintendent of Schools or a designee shall periodically review this policy and related administrative regulations to ensure compliance with governmental regulations for the prevention of severe health risks to employees posed by communicable, contagious, or infectious diseases.

The County Superintendent of Schools fully recognizes that education is a fundamental right guaranteed and protected by various constitutional and statutory provisions. The County Superintendent of Schools also fully recognizes the mandate to take reasonable actions to protect the safety and welfare of students, employees, and visitors in schools and programs operated by the County Office of Education.

Actions taken regarding the placement of students infected with a severe communicable or infectious disease shall be made on a case-by-case basis after factual inquiry. No pupil infected with a severe communicable, contagious, or infectious disease shall be excluded from attendance at regular schools and programs operated by the County Office of Education unless the results of the individual review and evaluation are that the presence of the pupil will be harmful to the welfare of the student, other pupils, employees of the County Office of Education, or there are compelling reasons to lawfully exclude the student.

A decision to exclude a pupil on the basis of a severe communicable, contagious, or infectious disease will be reviewed periodically to ensure placement in an appropriate educational program which will serve the interests of the pupil.

It is the intent of the County Superintendent of Schools to cooperate with local health authorities, other governmental agencies, school and community college districts, employees, students, parents/guardians, and community members to promulgate educational materials, inservice training, and recommended procedures for the prevention and control of severe communicable, contagious, or infectious diseases.

The County Superintendent of Schools or a designee shall be the authorized spokesperson for general information relating to severe communicable, contagious, or infectious diseases. In matters relating to specified students, legal counsel for the County Superintendent of Schools shall be the only authorized spokesperson.

The County Superintendent of Schools shall develop administrative regulations within the educational setting which assure:

Confidentiality of student medical information, as required by law.

Rights to privacy for the individual, as required by law.

Due process for the individual, as required by law.

Dissemination of preventive disease control information and resources.

Appropriate training in disease prevention techniques.

Implementation of precautionary procedures for the cleaning of soiled surfaces and the protocols of handling blood and body fluids.

The County Superintendent of Schools or a designee shall periodically review this policy and related administrative regulations to ensure compliance with governmental regulations for the prevention of severe health risks to students posed by communicable, contagious, or infectious diseases.