



HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC
District School Board

Infectious Disease Reporting

Adopted:	December 11, 2023	Policy #:	P 2.1.23.
Revised:		Policy Category:	2.1. School Operations

BELIEF STATEMENT:

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board (the Board) believes that it is important to coordinate actions to support healthy schools with Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH). The Board believes that all persons are created in the image and likeness of God and that we have a responsibility, to the extent possible, to support strong physical and mental health approaches at the individual and community levels.

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the Board that schools report (in a timely manner as per reporting requirements) any suspected or confirmed cases of Diseases of Public Health Significance (DOPHS)₁ to HPPH under the authority of the Health Protection and Promotion Act in accordance with their legal responsibility.

It is the policy of the Board that schools report illness-related absenteeism to HPPH based on thresholds established by HPPH (for example 30% of the school population or greater₂). It is the policy of the Board that schools participate in Illness Absenteeism Investigations upon request by HPPH in the particular circumstance.

PROCEDURE:

1.0 Reporting Diseases of Public Health Significance (DOPHS)

The principal shall report (in a timely manner) any suspected or confirmed cases to the Medical Officer of Health for the county where the patient resides as well as the supervisor officer for the school.

2.0 Reporting Absenteeism - Health Unit Thresholds

The principal shall report (in a timely manner) to the Medical Officer of Health for Huron-Perth as well as the supervisory officer for the school, illness-related absenteeism that exceeds thresholds established by HPPH (e.g. 30% or higher) and, upon request by the health unit, participate in Illness Absenteeism Investigations.

3.0 Fifth Disease

3.1 Background

Fifth Disease is not a reportable disease (DOPHS) and individuals who are contagious may spread the disease before they develop the characteristic rash - there is no reliable manner to determine Fifth Disease risk in schools. Huron Perth Public Health has confirmed that excluding persons with fifth disease from work, child care centres, schools, or other settings is not likely to prevent the spread of parvovirus B19, since ill persons are contagious before they develop the characteristic rash.

3.2 Health Unit Consultation

When a principal believes that a suspected or confirmed case of Fifth Disease is in the school - they shall consult with HPPH to assess the potential impact on their school community.

Subject to the outcome of a consultation with the Health Unit and where a principal believes that there is a suspected or confirmed case of Fifth Disease in the school - the principal shall (within 24 hours) notify the staff in a timely manner. The communication should include confirmation that student(s) in the school may have contracted Fifth Disease, confirmation of consultation with public health (along with their advice/direction) and an advisory for pregnant women to consider seeking out an independent medical opinion if they deem appropriate in the circumstance. The principal shall post a message on the doors of the school and send a message to the school community that indicates that there may be a case(s) of Fifth Disease in the school community. The principal may take down the posting after consulting with HPPH.

3.3 Pregnant Employees

If a pregnant employee is advised by their physician to not attend a workplace because of a confirmed case of Fifth Disease, the Board will seek an alternate assignment consistent with the physician's direction. The Board will make all reasonable efforts to provide the employee with a suitable assignment. However, if the Board determines there is no suitable assignment, the employee will be provided with a paid leave from scheduled work.

DEFINITIONS:

- N/A

REFERENCES:

- Diseases of Public Health Significance (2023) - HPPH
- 30% threshold in place of 2023-24 academic year and subject to change. Consult HPPH for current thresholds.

RESOURCES, APPENDICES AND FORMS:

- N/A