

Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School
Policy S25: COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
Adopted: October 22, 2020

- I. Southwest Georgia S.T.E.M. Charter School is committed to protecting students, staff, and visitors from the spread of communicable diseases which pose a substantial threat to the health or safety of the school community.
- II. The Board, the applicable health department, and/or the Georgia Department of Human Resources has the authority to require immunizations or other preventive measures including quarantine, isolation and segregation of persons with communicable disease or health conditions likely to endanger the health of others. These agencies may require quarantine or surveillance of carriers of disease and persons exposed to or suspected of being infected with infectious disease during such period until they are found free of the infectious agent or disease.

III. Procedures

- a. If there is reasonable cause to believe that a student or an employee has become infected with a communicable disease, the determination of a student's or an employee's condition shall be based upon reasonable medical judgment taking into consideration the nature of the risk (how the disease is transmitted); how long the carrier is infectious to others; and the probability that the disease will be transmitted and could cause harm to others.
- b. After consideration of the criteria set above the infected student or employee shall be allowed to remain in the educational or employment setting unless he/she currently presents a significant risk of contagion as determined by an appropriate designated school administrator after consultation with the student's or employee's physician, public health official knowledgeable about the disease and/or a physician selected by the School. When deemed medically appropriate, a student or employee may be removed from the school for a period of time not to exceed ten (10) calendar days for the purpose of obtaining a reasonable medical judgment as to whether or not the student or employee's attendance at the School would pose a significant risk to others' health.
- c. After a determination of the student's or employee's medical condition has been made, the school leader, after consultation with the student's or employee's physician, a public health official knowledgeable about the disease and/or the physician selected by the School, shall determine whether reasonable accommodation will allow the student to perform in the classroom or the employee to meet the essential functions of the job. An accommodation is reasonable unless it imposes either an undue financial hardship or administrative burden on the School.

IV. Protections

- a. The School shall not disclose medical information about a student or an employee with human immunodeficiency virus or other communicable disease without the consent of the employee or the student or parent or guardian, whichever is applicable, or only as required by law or court order. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit the school from notifying the parents or guardians of its students of the presence in a school of chicken pox, coronavirus, or any other communicable disease as required or suggested by the applicable county or state health department.
- b. The School shall not deny an individual employment based solely upon the individual's infection with a communicable disease unless the School, after consultation with the applicant's physician, a public health official knowledgeable about the disease and/or the physician selected by the School, determines that the communicable disease is of such nature or at a stage that the individual should not be in the regular school setting.
- c. The School shall not deny a student infected with a communicable disease an education solely because of the infection.

V. Prevention.

- a. The School shall educate its employees and students about communicable diseases, including transmission, risk reduction, social distancing and universal precautions for handling blood and body fluids.
- b. All schools shall adopt routine procedures for handling blood and body fluids consistent with the Centers for Disease Control Universal Precautions for Handling Blood and Body Fluids.
- c. The School shall be authorized to adopt rules for wearing masks on campus.