

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

A communicable disease is an illness caused by a specific infectious agent, or its toxic products, which can be transmitted from one individual host to another, either directly or indirectly.

The control of communicable disease is the responsibility of school personnel, health department personnel, private physicians, parents, and students. School personnel do have the right to exclude students with suspected communicable diseases until a physician states, in writing, that the student is no longer contagious or until the signs and symptoms are no longer apparent (F.S. 381.0056, F.S. 230.22).

Most common communicable diseases have a sudden onset and similar beginning signs and symptoms, such as headache, runny nose, watery eyes, sore throat, coughing, sneezing, fever, rash, vomiting, and diarrhea.

All students with suspected communicable diseases should be sent home until a medical diagnosis can be made or the student is symptom free.

Until the student can be sent home:

1. Take and record temperature.
2. Isolate student. Do **not** send the student back to class.
3. Notify parent/guardian to come for the student.