

**RSU #22 School Attendance Policy for Students
Infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)**

Purpose

RSU #22 has as its primary goal the provision of quality education in a safe environment for all students.

Public law in Maine guarantees all children the right to an education. The purpose of this policy is to establish what actions shall be taken in the event that RSU #22 is made aware that a student attending school is infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

This policy has been adopted to assure that the rights and safety of all involved parties are preserved.

Policy Elements

1. In general RSU #22 shall provide educational opportunities for students infected with HIV just as it does other students. This shall include attendance in regular class settings. Students infected with HIV shall be entitled to all the rights, privileges, and services provided by Maine law and RSU #22 policies.
2. In the event that a public health threat is perceived by the student's private physician, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services must be notified, and will then conduct an evaluation. If the school is notified of a student infected with HIV by the parents/guardians and becomes concerned about the safety of that student, other students, or staff, a similar evaluation may be requested. At any time that RSU #22 is concerned that a particular student poses a public health threat to others, advice may be requested from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services.
3. In the rare event that the Maine Department of Health and Human Services determines that conditions exist which suggest that a student HIV infection is a health threat to the school community, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and/or the Superintendent shall remove the student from the usual classroom setting until other arrangements can be made or until the Maine Department of Health and Human Services determines that the risks have abated. The health status of a student temporarily removed from the usual school setting in order to protect the health of the student or others will be reevaluated at least quarterly by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services.

4. Current Maine law protects the confidentiality of HIV test results with certain statutory exceptions. Test results may not be disclosed to anyone without written consent of parents/guardians. Records containing information about HIV test results and consent forms relating to test results shall be kept separate from other school records. Only those persons given written consent by the student's parents/guardians shall have access.
5. With written consent of the parents/guardians, the district shall designate a team consisting of the Superintendent of Schools, the school physician and the school nurse to:
 - a. serve as the liaison between the school and the student's parents, the student's physician and, if necessary, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services; and/or
 - b. serve as the supervisor of the medical component of the student's education experience.

Any team member or individual entrusted with the knowledge of a student infected with HIV must, by law, keep his/her knowledge of that child's status confidential, and access to information shall be limited only to those persons authorized in writing by the student's parents/guardians.

6. At the parents'/guardians' written request, the school nurse will notify the student's parents/guardians and/or the student's physician in the event that infections occur in the school population that may place an immunodeficient student at increased risk as defined by the student's physician or Maine Department of Health and Human Services. The decision whether or not to remove the student from school will be made by the parents/guardians and the student's physician. Should the HIV infected student be allowed to remain in school that the normal school environment is hazardous to his/her health, the school assumes no responsibility for the safety/health of the so infected child beyond what is normal and prudent practice for a school.
7. Because of the inability to identify individuals who may be infected with HIV or other agents transmissible through blood and other body fluids, the district's school staff shall follow standard procedures for cleaning and disinfecting all body fluid spills. If there is a need to handle items which are soiled with body fluids or to clean surfaces which are contaminated with body fluids, gloves shall be used in this process. Such contaminated articles shall be cleaned with soap and water and disinfected with a 1:10 dilution of household bleach or other appropriate disinfectant. All staff members shall participate in the training on how to deal with body fluids that they may encounter as part of their daily tasks. The procedures for cleaning bodily fluid spills shall be reviewed annually by all school staff members.

~~Implementation of School Attendance Policy:—~~

~~RSU #22 will provide educational programs to inform parents/guardians, students and staff regarding AIDS and all other communicable diseases even though there may not be students with infection currently enrolled.—~~

~~Education—students:—~~

~~The instruction of students shall be included as part of the health education curriculum (K-12) as approved by the Board of Directors.—~~

~~Education—teachers:—~~

~~For the 1988-1989 school year, the district will sponsor a one-day symposium on AIDS, the disease, for all teachers.—Teachers of health will be provided an additional day of training in health education, including the human sexuality components of the district's health curriculum.—~~

~~Thereafter, it will be the duty of the school nurse to hold classes regarding AIDS and other communicable diseases for all RSU #22 staff at least once annually.—~~

Adopted: January 12, 1988; Recoded January 7, 1998; Updated January, 2018; Revised _____

Legal Reference: 5 M.R.S.A. §19201