

No. 203-AR

ANTIETAM S. D.

PROPOSED PROCEDURES
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF
ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)
INFECTION IN THE SCHOOL SETTING

Introduction:

Pennsylvania education law is premised on the statutory right, given to every resident child between ages 6 and 21, to a free public school education. 24 P.S. S13-1302. This right can be limited only by other statutory provisions. O'Leary v Wisecup, 26 Pa. Comm. Ct. 538, 364 A.2d 77 (1976) Statutory limits to education are relatively narrow and most commonly rely on physical or mental health reasons or behavioral problems. Districts do, however, have authority to provide education through a variety of alternate settings or methods rather than excluding a student from school.

The purpose of the following procedure is designed to provide guide lines on dealing with students and employees who have been identified as possibly having and/or diagnosed as having HIV/AIDS.

Basic Premises:

- A. This procedure is HIV/AIDS specific and does not apply to other communicable diseases covered by Pennsylvania Departments of Health and/or Education regulations.
- B. HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the infectious agent that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).
- C. This procedure is based on current evidence that HIV is not transmissible by students or school employees within the school setting.
- D. This procedure is also based on a commitment by the Antietam School District that it will monitor closely the status of any student or employee with HIV/AIDS within the school setting, and take immediate steps to eliminate the possibility of transmission if the student or employee becomes contagious as determined by medical opinion.

- E. The terms infected student, infected school employe and infect ed individual are used in these procedures to apply to persons who have been diagnosed as having HIV/AIDS.

- F. For school students and/or employes with HIV/AIDS, recommenda tion regarding their continued attendance and/or employment in or by the school district shall be made by the patient and his/her physician with the School District retaining the right to review this recommendation similar to recommendations from private physicians concerning their types of illness.

Procedure:

- A. When the school authorities learn of a student or school employee infected with HIV/AIDS who plans to continue within the school setting, the Department of Health will be notified within ten (10) days of the time the information is received.
- B. When it is learned that a student or a school employee infected with HIV/AIDS plans to continue within the school setting:

1. The Superintendent will arrange for a meeting with the individual or his/her parents or guardians, appropriate school authorities, and the individual's physician. The group will consider what steps will be in the best interests of the individual and the school. A decision will be made about the individual's continued participation within the school setting by the Board of School Directors.

2. Decisions about the participation of individuals infected with HIV/AIDS in the school setting will be made on a case by case basis. The decisions will be based on the infected individual's behavior, neurological development, physical condition, and expected interaction with others in the school setting. The following criteria proposed by the United States Health Services Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta will be utilized:

"For the infected preschool-aged child and for some neurologically handicapped children who lack control of their body secretions or who display behavior, such as biting, and those children who have uncoverable, oozing lesions, a more restricted environment is advisable until more is known about transmission in these settings. Children infected with the HIV should be cared for and educated in settings that minimize exposure of other children to blood or body fluids.

Care involving exposure to the infected child's body fluids and excrement, such as feeding and diaper changing, should be performed by persons who are aware of the child's HIV/AIDS infection and the modes of possible transmission. In any setting involving an HIV/AIDS-infected person, good handwashing after exposure to blood and body fluids and before caring for another person should be observed, and

gloves should be worn if open lesions are present on the caretaker's hands. Any open lesions on the infected person should also be covered.

Because other infections in addition to HIV can be present in blood or body fluids, all schools and day care facilities, regardless of whether children with HIV/AIDS infection are attending, should adopt routine procedures for handling blood or body fluids. Soiled surfaces should be promptly cleaned with disinfectants, such as household bleach diluted 1 part bleach to 10 parts water. Disposable towels or tissues should be used whenever possible and mops should be rinsed in the disinfectant. Those who are cleaning should avoid exposure to open skin lesions or mucous membranes in the blood or body fluids.

The hygienic practices of children with the HIV/AIDS infection may improve as the child matures. Alternately, the hygienic practices may deteriorate if the child's condition worsens. Evaluation to assess the need for a restricted environment should be performed regularly."

- C. The Superintendent will determine which school staff, if any, will share information about the infected individual and be involved on a need-to-know basis. These persons will be required to preserve the confidentiality of information regarding the patient. Records will be kept confidential. The number of people informed of the infected individual's status will be kept to the minimum required to assure proper care and supervision of the individual and the school population.
- D. Information about individuals infected with HIV/AIDS in the school setting shall not be disclosed to the general public, other school employees, or other groups associated with the school.
- E. The normal school rules which relate to illness and other diseases among students and staff will also apply to individuals with the HIV/AIDS.
- F. The Berks County Intermediate Unit, in cooperation with the school district, will arrange opportunities for students, staff and parents to become better informed about HIV/AIDS.
- G. These procedures will be reviewed on a regular basis

to take into account any new medical information that becomes available.