

**DISEASES – EXCLUSION OF STUDENTS WITH COMMUNICABLE, CONTAGIOUS, & INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

Mountain Home School District No. 193 (MHSD) acknowledges the potentially adverse effects of contagious and communicable diseases. The District encourages safe and healthy practices, not only school district practices, but also individual personal practices to reduce the chance of bacteria, viruses, parasites, fungi, etc., spreading among the students and staff members of Mountain Home School District No. 193. It is the purpose of this policy to increase the awareness about reducing the spread of such diseases and infections through practical and hygienic practices.

Pursuant to authority in Idaho Code Section 33-512(7), the board of trustees has the power to exclude from school student with contagious or infectious diseases or who are under quarantine. The board will also close school on order of the State Board of Health or local health authorities.

MHSD board of trustees delegates to the superintendent or designee(s) and building administrators or designee(s) its authority to exclude from school students with contagious or infectious diseases or who are under quarantine (Idaho Code 33-513(2)). The superintendent or designee(s) and building administrators and designee(s) will also close school on order of the State Board of Health or local health authorities. Any closures under this policy will be reported to the board of trustees at the next regular meeting.

**DEFINITIONS (Merriam-Webster)**

**Communicable Disease:** an infectious disease transmissible (as from person to person) by direct contact with an affected individual or the individual's discharges or by indirect means (as by a vector).

**Contagious Disease:** an infectious disease communicable by contact with one who has it, with a bodily discharge.

**Infectious Disease:** a disease caused by the entrance into the body of organisms (as bacteria, protozoans, fungi, or viruses), which grow and multiply there.



**LEGAL REFERENCE:**

Idaho Code Section 33-512(4)(7)(11) – Governance of Schools

Idaho Code Section 33-513(2) – Professional Personnel

IDAPA 16.02.10.025.090 – Reportable Diseases

Center for Disease Control & Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/prevent.html>

Central District Health Department: <http://www.cdhd.idaho.gov/CD/public/factsheets/headlice.html>

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NOTE: In September, 2015, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued information regarding head lice and indicated both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses advocate that “no-nit” policies should be discontinued.” While the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, in its administrative rules, lists pediculosis as a disease or condition, there is no reporting requirement. On the other hand, the National Pediculosis Association continues to recommend the “No-Nit Policy” as the public health standard intended to keep children lice free, nit free, and in school.