

# **DuBois Integrity Academy**

## **Student Health Policy**

It is the policy of the DuBois Integrity Academy Governing Board to comply with all state and federal laws and regulations addressing the relationship between school services and the health of school-aged children. The board also supports and, where applicable, follows all Georgia Department of Health guidelines for children enrolled in DuBois Integrity Academy. The purpose of this policy is to encourage and facilitate the improvement of overall health in Du Bois Integrity Academy students. The board's overarching goal is to make it possible for all students to attend school regularly and learn at an optimal level.

### **Physical Examination of Students**

The board recognizes that educators are not trained to identify or assess many chronic or acute health conditions that may adversely affect a student's ability to learn and/or safely participate in school activities. DuBois Integrity Academy will implement the health screening procedures as required by law.

### **School and Nurse Procedures**

State law requires that all children in elementary school must have an updated Georgia Certificate of Immunization. Immunizations are required for measles, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, polio, mumps, whooping cough and hepatitis B. The Georgia DHR Form 3231 and Certificate of Immunization must be used for students in grades K-12. A local health department computer-generated form is acceptable. Georgia law allows for two types of exemptions from the immunization requirements: medical and religious. Each child must have one of two items on file – either a valid Georgia Immunization Certificate (Form 3231) indicating a medical exemption or a signed, notarized statement, which is called an affidavit of religious exemption.

### **Absence Due to Illness**

If a child is sick in the morning, the school expects him/her to stay home for the day. Parents are expected to call in the morning to inform the school of the child's absence and to arrange a way to pick up or receive the child's makeup work. After more than three consecutive absences for illness, students will need to bring a doctor's re-admittance form to school on their first day back to school to receive an excused absence for missed days.

The student will be responsible for all missed assignments. Please see procedures for make-up work under academic policies.

### **Illness During School Hours**

If a child becomes ill or injured during the school day and is not well enough to stay in class, the parent/guardian will be called to pick the child up. The school does not have the capacity to watch over

and care for ill children. It is necessary to have updated emergency contact numbers on file in the school office in case no one can be contacted at home. Du Bois Integrity Academy will only administer medicine to a student who has an official note from his or her doctor on file, describing the prescribed medicine, the required dosage, and the required frequency. Such notes must be brought to the school by the parent along with the medication required. Medicine will be kept at the main office and administered by the school's designated individual. Students are responsible for ensuring that they receive their medicine at the regularly scheduled time. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the school has up-to-date contact and health information. If a child has needs we do not know about, we cannot provide for those needs, and if a child has an emergency, we must be able to reach the parent.

## **Communicable Diseases and Immunization of Students**

In general, children with communicable diseases will not be permitted to remain in Du Bois Integrity Academy when their presence poses a documented and verifiable threat to the health of other students and Du Bois Integrity Academy employees. The board directs its employees to comply with all state laws regarding the immunization of students against communicable diseases, or exemptions from immunization, where applicable.

## **Blood Born Pathogens**

Medical evidence indicates that casual person-to-person contact, such as that which occurs in a school setting, poses no significant risk of transmitting Blood borne Pathogens, including Hepatitis B and C, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

## **Illness and Injury at School**

Du Bois Integrity Academy has neither staff nor provisions to care for sick children. If a child becomes ill or is injured at school, school personnel will act in the best interest of the child and make every effort to contact parents or guardians. Parents or guardians will be expected to follow procedures to check the child out of school.

## **Chronic or Serious Conditions**

Parents or guardians are expected to inform school personnel immediately of any chronic conditions, such as diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, etc., which might require emergency treatment, being certain these conditions are noted on the child's registration card. If a child becomes seriously injured or ill at school, school personnel will act in the best interests of the child, make every effort to contact parents or guardians, and follow emergency instructions provided by parents or guardians.

## **Administering Medication to Students**

The board requires that school develop and implement a plan, consistent with state law, to administer medication to students when deemed necessary by a parent or guardian and the child's health care provider. School-level plans should be aimed at assisting students while they are under school supervision, consistent with district procedures, or as specified in a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP), Health Plan, or 504 Plan.

## **Treatment and Control of Head Lice**

The board directs its employees to cooperate with the Georgia Health Department in the implementation of guidelines addressing the issue of head lice, including the dissemination of information about transmission of head lice, proper treatment of an infestation, and notification of families likely to be affected by an infestation.

## **Infectious Disease Policy**

### **STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES WITH SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS AND DISEASES AND CERTAIN OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND INFECTIOUS CONDITIONS**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

Public concern that students and staff of Du Bois Integrity Academy be able to attend the schools without becoming infected with serious communicable or infectious diseases, including but not limited to, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Hepatitis B, and Tuberculosis, requires that the school board adopt measures effectively responding to health concerns while respecting the rights of all students, employees, and contractors, including those who are so infected. The purpose of this policy is to adopt such measures.

#### **2. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

2.1. Students: It is the policy of the school board that students with communicable diseases not be excluded from attending school in their usual daily attendance setting so long as their health permits and their attendance does not create a significant risk of the transmission of illness to students or employees of Du Bois Integrity Academy. A procedure for minimizing interruptions to learning resulting from communicable diseases will be established by the school in its IEP and Section 504 team process, if applicable, and in consultation with community health and private health care providers. Procedures for the inclusion of students with communicable diseases will include any applicable educational team planning processes, including the review of the educational implications for the student and others with whom the student comes into contact.

2.2. Employees: It is the policy of the school board that employees with communicable diseases not be excluded from attending to their customary employment so long as they are physically, mentally and emotionally able to safely perform tasks assigned to them and so long as their employment

does not create a significant risk of the transmission of illness to students, employees, or others at Du Bois Integrity Academy. If a reasonable accommodation will eliminate the significant risk of transmission, such accommodation will be undertaken unless it poses an undue hardship to the school.

2.3. Circumstances and Conditions: 2.3.1. Determinations of whether a contagious individual's school attendance or job performance creates a significant risk of the transmission of the illness to students or employees of Du Bois Integrity Academy will be made on a case by case basis. Such decisions will be based upon the nature of the risk (how it is transmitted), the duration of the risk (how long the carrier is infectious), the severity of the risk (what is the potential harm to third parties) and the probabilities the disease will be transmitted and will cause varying degrees of harm. When a student is disabled, such a determination will be made in consultation with the educational planning team.

2.3.2. The school board recognizes that some students and some employees, because of special circumstances and conditions, may pose greater risks for the transmission of infectious conditions than other persons infected with the same illness. Examples include students who display biting behavior, students or employees who are unable to control their bodily fluids, who have oozing skin lesions or who have severe disorders, which result in spontaneous external bleeding. These conditions need to be taken into account and considered in assessing the risk of transmission of the disease and the resulting effect upon the educational program of the student or employment of the employee by consulting with the Commissioner of Health, the physician of the student or employee, and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student.

2.4. Students with Special Circumstances and Conditions: Du Bois Integrity Academy, along with the infected individual's physician, the infected individual or parent(s)/guardian(s), and others, if appropriate, will weigh risks and benefits to the student and to others, consider the least restrictive appropriate educational placement, and arrange for periodic reevaluation as deemed necessary by the state epidemiologist. The risk to the student shall be determined by the student's physician.

2.5. Extracurricular Student Participation: Student participation in nonacademic, extracurricular and non-educational programs of Du Bois Integrity Academy are subject to a requirement of equal access and comparable services. Student educational services are subject to FAPE/LRE standards.

2.6. Precautions: Du Bois Integrity Academy will develop routine procedures for infection control at school and for educating employees about these procedures. The procedures shall be developed through cooperation with health professionals taking into consideration guidelines of the Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Department of Health. (These precautionary procedures shall be consistent with the school's procedures regarding blood-borne pathogens developed pursuant to the school's employee right to know policy.)

## 2.7. Information Sharing

2.7.1. Employee and student health information shall be shared within the school only with those whose jobs require such information and with those who have a legitimate educational interest (including health and safety) in such information and shall be shared only to the extent required to accomplish legitimate educational goals and to comply with employees' right to know requirements.

2.7.2. Employee and student health data shall be shared outside the school only in accordance with state and federal law and with the school's policies on employee and student records and data.

2.8. Reporting: If a medical condition of student or staff threatens public health, it must be reported to the Department of Health.

2.9. Infection Prevention and Control Procedures: Whenever it is necessary to handle or clean up anything contaminated with blood or other body fluids, the following simple and effective procedures should be observed. These measures can be adopted as standard procedure for every spill or wound involving blood or other body fluids to avoid potential transmission of any communicable disease.

### 2.9.1. Standard Precautions for Handling of Blood and Other Body Fluids

2.9.1.1. Many different infections may be spread from person to person through contact with blood and other body fluids.

2.9.1.2. Both students and staff members can transmit infections, even when there is no knowledge of or appearance of illness. Standard precautions are based on the premise that anyone may potentially transmit an infection.

2.9.1.3. Anticipating potential contact with infectious materials in routine and emergency situations is the first step in preventing exposure to and transmission of infections.

2.9.1.4. Essential techniques used to control infections are:

2.9.1.4.1. Effective hand hygiene

2.9.1.4.2. Using gloves and other barriers as needed

2.9.1.4.3. Disposing of waste appropriately

2.9.1.4.4. Cleaning spills promptly and carefully

2.9.1.5. Standard precautions should be observed by anyone involved in handling blood or other body fluids such as vomit, fecal matter or urine; or cleaning facilities or equipment that may have been contaminated. Standard precautions are for the protection of everyone.

2.9.1.6. Observance of these guidelines will make the school a safer environment for students and staff:

2.9.1.7. When applying pressure to stop a bleeding wound, disposable gloves should always be worn.

2.9.1.8. If at all possible, the injured person should hold the pressure on the wound himself, but many students will not be able to do this effectively.

2.9.1.9. Personnel cleaning up spills should avoid any exposure of their open skin lesions or mucous membranes such as the eyes, nose and mouth.

2.9.1.10. Disposable gloves should never be reused.

2.9.1.11. Surfaces soiled with the above substances should be promptly disinfected, using a 10 percent bleach solution (one part bleach to nine parts water) or school district-approved disinfectant for colorfast surfaces, and other EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)- approved disinfectant or germicide for surfaces that will fade. The bleach solution should be made freshly each day (1/3 cup bleach to one quart water).

2.9.1.12. Whenever possible, disposable towels, tissues or similar materials should be used in the cleanup process. These disposables, including the gloves, should be sealed in one plastic bag, double-bagged in a second bag and then discarded.

2.9.1.13. Non-disposable cleaning equipment and materials, such as mop heads, should also be disinfected with bleach or other EPA-approved disinfectant or germicide.

2.9.1.14. Linens should be stored in a plastic bag until laundered. Linens that are not disposable, such as towels, may be cleaned in a normal hot water laundry cycle.

2.9.1.15. Thoroughly wash hands afterwards, using soap and water.

2.9.1.16. All sharp or blood-contaminated objects, such as lancets, needles, glass ampules, razor blades and strips used for blood or urine testing, should be disposed of in a puncture-proof and leak proof container. All needles should be disposed of without being bent or recapped. Schools should identify students whose medical condition requires use of these sharps and ensure that they are instructed in the proper disposal of such items. See below for additional information.

2.9.1.17. If exposure to blood or other body fluids occurs, a report to the school office will dictate what possible further medical attention is needed by district policy. Contact your local public health department for guidance.

## 2.10. Disposal of Infectious Waste

2.10.1. Contaminated Supplies Used or contaminated supplies like gloves, barriers, sanitary napkins and Band-Aids should be placed into a plastic bag and sealed. This bag then can be thrown into the garbage so it is out of reach of children or animals.

2.10.2. Used Needles, Syringes and Other Sharp Objects: Georgia does not provide guidance for the safe disposal of community sharps. Listed below are some general guidelines:

2.10.3. Needles should not be recapped, bent or removed from the syringe before disposal.

2.10.3.1. If a purchased red biohazard sharps container is not used, these objects should immediately be placed in a metal, or other rigid, strong plastic puncture-proof and leak-proof container with a screw-on or tightly secured cap, such as a laundry detergent bottle.

2.10.3.2. Be sure the container is opaque so needles cannot be seen from the outside of the container.

2.10.3.3. Once the container is three-fourths full, it should be sealed with heavy duty tape, bagged and kept out of the reach of children until it can be disposed of properly. Reinforce the cap with heavy duty tape. Mark clearly and noticeably on the outside of the container "Do Not Recycle."

2.10.3.4. Arrangements can be made to dispose of used needles, syringes and other sharp objects contained in an approved red biohazard sharps container at a local medical facility, fire department or health department.

2.10.3.5. If a biohazard sharps container is not available, parents should be asked to pick up the container so they can dispose it in their personal household trash. Parents should check with their local waste collection service or their local health department for proper needle (sharps) disposal procedures in their county.

2.10.3.6. The program must be consistent with the health and wellness curriculum.