

Chapter 246-110 WAC

CONTAGIOUS DISEASE—SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND DAY CARE CENTERS

WAC

246-110-001 Purpose.
 246-110-010 Definition.
 246-110-020 Control of communicable (contagious) disease.

WAC 246-110-001 Purpose. The following regulations are adopted by the board of health for the purpose of governing the presence on or about any school or day care center premises of susceptible persons who have, or have been exposed to, a communicable disease. These regulations are in addition to other requirements imposed by chapter 246-100 WAC.

In furtherance of the purpose and intent of the law and these regulations, it is recommended that parents of students whose medical supervision seems inadequate should be encouraged to obtain the services of a physician for the child. When the economic situation warrants, the parents should be guided to the appropriate source of community-sponsored medical care. These regulations are not intended to imply that any diagnosis or treatment will be performed by school or day care center personnel.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 92-02-019 (Order 225B), § 246-110-001, filed 12/23/91, effective 1/23/92; 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-110-001, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91; 90-21-056 (Order 095), § 248-101-011, filed 10/15/90, effective 10/15/90.]

WAC 246-110-010 Definition. As used in this portion of these regulations, these terms shall mean:

(1) "Contact" means a person exposed to an infected person, animal, or contaminated environment which might provide an opportunity to acquire the infection.

(2) "Exposure" means such association with a person or animal in the infectious stage of a disease, or with a contaminated environment, as to provide the opportunity to acquire the infection.

(3) "Susceptible" means a person who does not possess sufficient resistance, whether natural or induced, to a pathogenic agent or disease to prevent contracting that disease when exposed thereto.

(4) "Communicable disease (contagious disease)" means an illness caused by an infectious agent which can be transmitted from one person, animal, or object to another person by direct or indirect means including transmission via an intermediate host or vector, food, water, or air. Communicable (contagious) diseases include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Chickenpox
- (b) Conjunctivitis (bacterial)
- (c) Diphtheria
- (d) Giardiasis
- (e) Hepatitis A
- (f) Invasive Haemophilus influenza disease (excluding otitis media)
- (g) Measles

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(h) Meningitis (bacterial)

(i) Mumps

(j) Pediculosis

(k) Pertussis

(l) Rubella

(m) Salmonellosis

(n) Shigellosis

(o) Tuberculosis

(5) "School" means each building, facility, and location at or within which any or all portions of a preschool, kindergarten and grades one through twelve program of education and related activities are conducted for two or more children by or in behalf of any public school district and by or in behalf of any private school or private institution subject to approval by the state board of education.

(6) "Day care center" means an agency which regularly provides care for a group of children for periods of less than twenty-four hours and is licensed pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW.

(7) "Outbreak" means the occurrence of cases of a disease or condition in any area over a given period of time in excess of the expected number of cases.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-110-010, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91; 90-21-056 (Order 095), § 248-101-021, filed 10/15/90, effective 10/15/90.]

WAC 246-110-020 Control of communicable (contagious) disease. (1) When there is an outbreak of a contagious disease, as defined in WAC 246-110-010, such that there is the potential for a case or cases within a school or day care center, the local health officer, if appropriate, after consultation with the secretary of health or designee shall take all medically appropriate actions deemed to be necessary to control or eliminate the spread of the disease, including, but not limited to:

(a) Closing the affected school(s) or day care center(s), or part(s) thereof;

(b) Closing other schools or day care centers in the local health officer's jurisdiction;

(c) Causing the cessation of selected school or day care center activities or functions;

(d) Excluding from schools or day care centers in the local health officer's jurisdiction any students, staff, and volunteers who are infected with, or deemed to be susceptible to, the disease.

(2) Prior to taking action the health officer shall:

(a) Consult with and discuss the ramifications of action with the superintendent of the school district, or the chief administrator of the day care center or their designees on the proposed action; and

(b) Provide the board of directors and the superintendent of the school district or the chief administrator of the day care

center a written decision in the form and substance of an order directing them to take action;

(3) Where these actions have been taken, the local health officer shall, in addition:

(a) Set the terms and conditions permitting schools or day care centers to reopen; activities and functions to resume; and excluded students, staff and volunteers to be readmitted; and

(b) Pursue, in consultation with the secretary of health or designee and school and/or day care officials, the investigation of the source of disease, or order those actions necessary to the ultimate control of the disease.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050, 92-02-019 (Order 225B), § 246-110-020, filed 12/23/91, effective 1/23/92; 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-110-020, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91; 90-21-056 (Order 095), § 248-101-221, filed 10/15/90, effective 10/15/90.]