



COMMUNICABLE DISEASES/A.I.D.S.

The acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (A.I.D.S.) is caused by a virus called the human T-lymphotropic virus type III/lymphadenopathy-associated virus (HTLV-III/LAV) which is capable of destroying the body's immune system. Because the body's defenses can no longer fight off infection, A.I.D.S. patients suffer from frequent, serious illnesses.

Students Diagnosed as Having A.I.D.S.

Confidentiality respecting students infected with the A.I.D.S. virus shall be maintained at all times. Dissemination of any information shall be restricted to those who "need-to-know".

When school officials are informed about a student with the A.I.D.S. virus (HIV) infection, a committee consisting of the Superintendent of Education and/or school administrator, the student's physician, the Medical Officer of Health and the student's parent(s) shall meet to ensure that everyone involved understands the situation and the implications of any action that may be taken. The student's psychological as well as physical health shall be taken into account. In cases of mature students (18 years of age or older), the student's attendance at the meeting will take the place of parents.

Where the physical condition or behavior of a student infected with the A.I.D.S. virus poses a health risk as determined by the above committee in the regular classroom, alternative instruction may include a variety of arrangements ranging from special instruction within the school setting to home tutoring.

Employees Diagnosed as Having A.I.D.S.

Confidentiality respecting employees infected with the A.I.D.S. virus shall be maintained at all times. Dissemination of any information shall be restricted to those who "need-to-know".

When school officials are informed about an employee with the A.I.D.S. virus (HIV) infection, a committee consisting of the Superintendent of Education and/or the employee's immediate supervisor, the employee's physician, the employee and the Medical Officer of Health shall meet to ensure that everyone involved understands the situation and the implications of any action that may be taken. The employee's



psychological as well as physical health shall be taken into account.

Where the physical condition or behavior of any employee infected with the A.I.D.S. virus poses a health risk because of the A.I.D.S. virus related condition, as determined by the committee, that person may be excluded from employment. Regular employee benefits within the terms of employment shall apply.

"Need-to-know" shall include those persons who have been identified as requiring the information to ensure proper care and support for the infected student or employee and to identify situations where the potential for transmission may increase. The Board of Trustees will be informed of the presence of an A.I.D.S. or HIV positive situation within the Division when such a situation is confirmed.

Handling of Body Fluids

The Division had adopted "Interim Guidelines for Schools and Day-cares", Manitoba Health, July 1987 as procedures to be followed in handling body fluids.

The Division will provide a supply of rubber gloves to each school and school bus. Employees are asked to be familiar with procedures and this section should be reviewed annually by each school.

A.I.D.S. Education

Education is considered to be the most effective means to combat the A.I.D.S. virus. The Division, therefore, accepts responsibility to inform and educate students and staff about the A.I.D.S. virus - what it is, how it spreads and how to avoid contact.

For Students

The Division will implement the Manitoba Education A.I.D.S. Curriculum as the basis of its programming for students, Grades 5 to 12. It will support professional development opportunities for those teachers involved in teaching the lessons and invites input and involvement from agencies such as Public Health. In accordance with Manitoba Education Guidelines, Grades 5 to 9 A.I.D.S. instruction shall be as developed in the Manitoba Health Curriculum, Community Health Unit. In Grades 10 to 12, Division schools will present the Manitoba Education lessons developed each school year, in a format to be determined in each school according to where its personnel and resources



can best accommodate the teaching of these lessons.

The Division will consider the teaching of the Manitoba Education lessons on A.I.D.S. as a regular curriculum offering so far as consent of parents is concerned. Parents will receive information as part of an attempt to educate and inform. The Division will cooperate with Health Agencies in education programming on this topic for the public of the Swan Valley School Division.

For Employees

The Division will support staff efforts to be informed as to the nature of this disease and will, from time to time, provide information to employees.