



Communicable Disease
and
Pandemic Plan

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Pandemic Flu & Infectious Disease

I. INTRODUCTION

South Lane School District(SLSD) Pandemic Flu & Infectious Disease Plan is promulgated by the Superintendent and is implemented in the event of pandemic flu or disease outbreak.

II. PURPOSE, SCOPE, SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to provide guidance to district leadership and staff in the event of a pandemic outbreak in the South Lane School District(SLSD) or the region.

The general objectives of this plan are:

- Ensure schools and facilities are safe and healthy places for all
- Monitor and report disease outbreaks as directed by public health agencies
- Continue education for all students
- Maintain communication and information sharing with students, staff, and the community

Scope

This pandemic flu/infectious disease plan provides guidance for reducing illness at school on a regular basis, as well as procedures during infectious disease outbreaks and pandemic periods. It includes 1) strategies to prevent and reduce the spread of infectious diseases at our schools, 2) procedures for canceling school due to an infectious disease outbreak, 3) considerations for reopening schools.

Situation

The district by its nature is subject to exposure of communicable diseases. By following sound cleaning, monitoring, and reporting procedures the district will be able to continue providing its normal services.

What is a Pandemic?

Pandemic: a worldwide outbreak of a specific disease or illness that suddenly occurs in human beings within a community, region, or country in a number of cases that clearly exceeds that of 'normal.' Pandemic outbreaks are expected to occur simultaneously throughout the nation in inevitably and unpredictable intervals.

What is Pandemic Influenza?

Influenza is also known as "the flu." Variants of Influenza A have the potential to cause an influenza pandemic. The influenza A virus is continually changing which creates new variants of the virus. When a new variant is introduced into the community there is little to no immunity present. A pandemic can occur if the virus can infect individuals, create illness, and spread to others (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021). Influenza A is spread from person to person via respiratory droplets. These droplets are created when

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individuals infected with the influenza virus cough, sneeze, or talk. If these droplets land in the mouth or nose of another individual, they could become infected with the virus. Occasionally individuals may become infected by touching a surface that has the virus on it and then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2018).

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) defines influenza-like illnesses as having the following symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° Fahrenheit or greater
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Headache
- Muscle or body aches
- Fatigue
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

III. INFECTION CONTROL

Illness/Disease Monitoring & Tracking:

South Lane staff will follow the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority Communicable Disease guidance and protocols.

Oregon Administrative Rule 333-018-0000 requires that all outbreaks of any disease to be reported to and investigated by the Local Health Department (LHD). An outbreak is defined as more cases than expected for a given population and time period.

A suspected influenza outbreak is defined as 20% or more students in the same classroom with influenza like illness (ILI) or, if more widespread, 20% of the school or daycare facility within 72 hours.

If fewer than 20% of students are ill but some have particularly severe symptoms (such as hospitalizations or physician diagnosed pneumonia), Lane County Public Health will be contacted.

Nursing staff will track student illness to determine if they are related to a disease outbreak.

Hygiene:

Hygiene and sanitation are some of the most important methods of disease prevention. Handwashing is one of the single most important methods of keeping germs at bay, specifically in the school setting. Hand sanitizer greater than 60% alcohol should be made available for times that handwashing is not immediately accessible.



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Hand sanitizer should be easily accessible throughout the building, specifically in high contact areas and at entrances and exits as feasible.

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html>

Cough etiquette:

These are infection prevention measures designed to limit the transmission of respiratory pathogens spread by droplet or airborne routes. Implementing these measures to prevent the spread of respiratory infections from anyone with signs or symptoms of illness.

- Education on cough etiquette.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Use tissues and throw them away.
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer every time you touch your mouth or nose.

Immunizations

In the school setting, immunizations are a crucial step toward communicable disease control. Certain immunizations are a requirement for attending school in Oregon, although certain populations may be unvaccinated because of medical contraindications or other decisions. Each school has record of which students are and unvaccinated with routine childhood immunizations as a primary control measure for outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

When a positive case of a vaccine preventable disease is identified in the school setting, designated staff will run immunization reports to identify unvaccinated students in the building. The District Health Authority (DHA) will work with the LPHA and the school administrator to determine the need for exclusion or notification of exposure to members of the school community. If a positive case of influenza A is identified in the school building, or when there is an increase in incidence in a building/community, the School Health Nurse will work with the LPHA to determine the necessity for exclusion of unvaccinated.

Face Coverings

LPHA may require face coverings if community transmission is high. Staff and student are allowed to wear a face covering if they desire to.

Screening

Students presenting to the office should be identified as Health Room or Sick/Isolation room based on needs and logged into the health room log. A review of student health history must be completed by trained staff. All health checks will be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations.

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Designated health staff will specifically screen students as per the OHA Communicable Disease School Exclusion Guidelines to determine if symptoms are present that require isolation and dismissal as per Communicable Disease Plan and previously listed:

- [OHA Communicable Disease School Exclusion Guidelines](#)

Physical Distancing

During an influenza pandemic, Staff and students may be encouraged to increase physical distance. Increasing physical distance is the practice of keeping people apart in social settings to reduce the potential of exposure to disease. This may be difficult in most classrooms since they are already at capacity in many cases.

Because of this closeness, teachers and staff should discourage hand shaking, high fives, and hugs, as well as discourage the sharing of drinks or eating out of the same chip bag, etc.

Avoid face-to-face meetings; if unavoidable, maintain 3 feet between individuals if possible. Cancel or postpone non-essential meetings, gatherings, assemblies, field trips, workshops, or trainings. Consider setting up staggered shifts or flexible hours to reduce crowding in offices.

Isolation/Exclusion

OHA Communicable Disease Symptom Based Exclusion Guidelines

Staff and Students must only report to buildings when healthy.

Lane County Health Department may advise that isolation periods be required for individuals with influenza infection during a pandemic.

SLSD will follow the [OHA Communicable Disease Guidelines](#). Pages 8-10 of the guidelines specifically speak to illness symptom related exclusion.

Every school will have a designated sick isolation room in addition to the health room (Oregon Rule 581-022-2220). The isolation room will be stocked with adequate PPE for school nurse, School Based Health Assistant, or designated backup staff.

Documentation

Students meeting exclusion criteria should be sent to the isolation room where trained staff will provide assistance. Staff should consult the school health nurse prior to sending the student home. Ill students must be placed in separate isolation space until picked up by parent, guardian, or emergency contact as soon as possible. All Health Room and Isolation room visits will be logged into the Healthroom Log.

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**Emergency signs that require immediate medical attention and call 911:

- Trouble breathing Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to awaken
- Bluish lips or face (lighter skin); greyish lips or face (darker skin)
- Other severe or life-threatening symptoms

Disinfection & Cleaning

Custodial staff will continue to use district-approved supplies and procedures to ensure schools are safe.

- Increase the frequency for touch point cleaning (doorknobs, drinking fountains, sink, toilet, & urinal handles, desktops, chair surfaces...) with the general cleaner throughout the entire day. General areas of particular emphasis need to be restrooms, lunchroom, staff rooms, common areas, and classrooms.
- For **ALL** cleaning use the disinfectant cleaner for **ALL** touch points (doorknobs, drinking fountains, sink, toilet, & urinal handles, desktops, chair surfaces...) as soon as students are no longer in the area

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Whole School Disinfecting

In the event that a school or schools are closed due to an infectious disease outbreak, leadership will determine if the site can be cleaned by district personnel or through its contract remediation service.

Buses

School buses are cleaned by the drivers on a regular basis during the normal school year. However, during periods of suspected or confirmed infectious disease outbreak, consideration will be given to increasing the frequency of cleaning schedules, possibly at the end of each route (morning and afternoon) based on the nature and spread of the disease and guidance from our Public Health Department.

Buses used for medically fragile students may need to be cleaned more frequently.

The Transportation Department will follow similar guidelines for buildings by using the same chemicals and increasing the frequency of cleaning touchpoints such as handrails, tops of seats, windows and driver's controls.

Food Services and Nutrition

During periods of suspected or confirmed infectious disease outbreak, South Lane staff will consider the need to make modifications to its services based on the severity and nature of the outbreak. This could include discontinuing the use of self-serve salad bars, serving sack lunches instead of cafeteria style lunches, and discontinuing offering bars.

Additionally, they will increase the awareness of safe food handling and sanitation procedures.

Visitors/Volunteers

Volunteers and visitors may be restricted during a influenza pandemic. Please see SLSD District Visitor Policy for additional information.

Vulnerable Populations:

SLSD supports a large number of students and staff who are considered vulnerable populations. Students in such programs may have compromised or limited immune systems.

Therefore, if a disease outbreak were to occur, special attention would need to be given to these students to ensure they not impacted, or that the exposure is limited to the best of our abilities.

In addition to students with special needs, SLSD provides services to students and adults with limited English language skills. It is important to remember that messaging and all disease information must be provided in multiple languages.

IV. RESPONSE:

If a wide-spread pandemic occurs, SLSD will:

- Collaborate with OHA/LCPH to monitor levels of illness and positive cases in the staff and student population
- Prioritize resource requests and allocations
- Disseminate timely and accurate information
- Coordinate with media and manage all communications
- Maintain essential SLSD operations, including:
 - o Staffing
 - o Finance
- Coordinate damage assessment process
- Coordinate education services when possible

This pandemic plan will be reviewed yearly.