

November 18, 2009

Diseases Requiring Exclusion from Schools Amended

The Communicable Disease Act requires the Department of State Health Services to designate communicable diseases that require exclusion from schools. The overall purpose of the rule is to provide school personnel as well as parents with guidance regarding appropriate control measures for the prevention and containment of communicable diseases such as measles, chicken pox and other infectious diseases that cause fever or diarrhea.

The amendment creates an additional condition — wound, skin and soft tissue infections — for which children may be excluded from schools and addresses all wound and skin and soft tissue infections instead of only impetigo.

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(12) infections (wounds, skin, and soft tissue)--exclude until drainage from wounds or skin and soft tissue infections is contained and maintained in a clean dry bandage; restrict from situations that could result in the infected area becoming exposed, wet, soiled, or otherwise compromised;

Contact the Infectious Disease Control Unit at the Texas Department of State Health Services at www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu for more information.