

MIDDLE BUCKS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: Communicable Diseases

ADOPTED: October 11, 2004

REVISED: September 12, 2005

<p>Purpose</p> <p>Definitions</p> <p>28 Pa.Code §27.1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">203. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES</p> <p>The Executive Council of the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology (MBIT) is committed to the provision of a healthful environment for students and employees. In fulfillment of that commitment, the Executive Council has consulted and will continue to consult appropriate medical, educational, legal and governmental authorities. The following guidelines are a result of this consultation.</p> <p><u>Carrier</u> -- A person who, without any apparent symptoms of a communicable disease, harbors an infectious agent and may serve as a source of infection.</p> <p><u>Communicable disease</u> -- An illness caused by an infectious agent or its toxic products, which is transmitted directly or indirectly to a susceptible host from a carrier, infected person, animal or arthropod or through the agency of an intermediate host or vector through the inanimate environment.</p> <p><u>Communicable period</u> -- The time during which a carrier or infected person can transmit an infectious agent directly or indirectly to another person.</p> <p><u>Contact</u> -- A person exposed to the possibility of acquiring a communicable disease because of his or her association with a carrier or infected person.</p> <p><u>Infected person</u> -- A person who evidences any symptom of a communicable disease.</p> <p><u>Reasonable accommodation</u> -- Any addition to or modification of existing facilities, equipment, programs, schedules, policies, procedures, methods, operations or services that would enable a carrier, contact or infected person to remain in his or her existing classroom, facility or position or to enter a classroom, facility or position comparable to that which he or she would have entered were he or she not a carrier, contact or infected person. Reasonable accommodations, however, do not require additions or modifications that would impose undue hardship on the operation of MBIT programs. In determining whether an addition or modification would impose "undue hardship," the Executive Council will consider the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the cost of the change; (ii) the ability of MBIT to cover the cost of the change; (iii) the degree to which the change will disrupt or diminish the effectiveness of MBIT programs; (iv) the number of students, faculty and programs affected by the change;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (v) the educational and other needs of the students affected by the change; (vi) the extent to which the change will reduce the risk to health and safety; (vii) the duration and severity of the risk to health and safety; and (viii) any other matter that the Executive Council deems to be relevant. <p><u>Significant risk to health and safety</u> -- Risk that is posed by the presence of a carrier, contact or infected person and that is significant enough to justify a change in the educational program or placement or in the employment status of a carrier, contact or infected person. In determining the significance of a risk, the Executive Council will consider reasonable medical judgments on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the manner by which the infectious agent is transmitted; (ii) the duration of the communicable period; (iii) the severity of the risk to others; and (iv) the probability of transmission to others.
<p>Applicability 24 P.S. §1850.1</p>	<p>This policy will apply to current and potential MBIT students.</p>
<p>Individual Consideration</p>	<p>MBIT will consider each case individually, consistent with these guidelines.</p>
<p>Admission of Students 24 P.S. §13-1301 28 Pa.Code §27.1,et seq</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. MBIT will admit a carrier, contact or infected person to his or her assigned classroom or facility, that he or she would have entered were he or she not a carrier, contact or infected person, unless a change in assignment or exclusion is recommended by the Administrative Director and is approved by the Executive Council after consultation with the school physician. Before the Administrative Director recommends any change or exclusion, he or she will consult with the student's attending physician and Solicitor, the student's parents or guardian and, if necessary, the educational personnel in the student's existing proposed placement. B. The Executive Council will approve a change in assignment or an exclusion only if, after reasonable accommodation, the carrier, contact or infected person would still pose a significant risk to health or safety. C. Any change in assignment or any exclusion approved by the Executive Council under subsections A., B., and C. of this section will change only as much or will continue only as long as is necessary to prevent significant risk to health and safety. D. If a student contracts any of the communicable diseases identified by the Department of Health in Section 27.71 of the Department's regulations, 28 Pa. Code § 27.71, the Administrative Director may exclude that student and advise the Executive Council of such action. Such a student will be referred for action, which conforms to the requirements of 28 Pa. Code §§ 27.71 through 27.75. E. MBIT may establish procedures necessary for the safe operation of each of its

	<p>services, programs, and activities. MBIT may make such inquiries as are needed to ensure safe participation in its services, programs, and activities.</p> <p>F. MBIT may require a limited waiver of the physician-patient privilege as a condition of admission or continued admission of a carrier, contact or infected person, to the extent necessary to prevent significant risk to health and safety.</p> <p>G. The Administrative Director or his or her designee may exclude any suspected carrier, contact or infected person, until a licensed physician can complete an examination, or on the physician's recommendation and opinion that that is necessary to prevent significant risk to health and safety until such time as the Executive Council has had an opportunity to act on a recommendation for a change in assignment or an exclusion.</p> <p>H. Carriers will be requested to update the school physician of changes in their health status every three months. The school physician will use this information and will, if necessary, revise the original recommendation in light of new information and new developments in medicine.</p> <p>I. Any student who is excluded from School pursuant to this policy will be referred to the building principal for appropriate action, which may include the provision of homebound or other alternative education, action to comply with Section 1329 of the Code, 24 P.S. § 13-1329, and/or other action at the discretion of the Administrative Director.</p>
<p>Confidentiality</p> <p>20 U.S.C. A §1232g (FERPA) 34 CFR §300.560-577 (IDEA) 24 P.S. §1409 22 Pa.Code §12.33</p>	<p>In accordance with state and federal law, MBIT will keep confidential all student records of carriers, contacts and infected persons. MBIT will disclose confidential information only to those MBIT personnel who need the information to protect themselves and others from significant risk to health and safety. MBIT personnel will not reveal any confidential information to any other person unless the Administrative Director or his or her designee authorizes them to do so.</p>
<p>Education</p> <p>28 Pa.Code §27.1,et seq</p>	<p>A. The Administrative Director or his or her designee will develop a program to educate parents, students and staff about the detection, treatment, transmission, risks and prevention of communicable diseases. The program will also inform parents, students and staff about the communicable disease policies and guidelines of MBIT.</p> <p>B. In developing an education program, the Administrative Director will refer to Chapter 27 of the regulations adopted by the Department of Health, entitled "Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases," 28 Pa. Code §§ 27.1 et seq., and to any relevant guidelines issued by the Federal Centers for Disease Control.</p>
<p>Evaluation</p>	<p>The School's Physician will periodically report to the Administrative Director regarding the effectiveness of these guidelines and will make recommendations for their revision in response to developments in medical research and treatment.</p>

<p>Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>All employees will be required to consistently follow infection control/universal precautions in all settings and at all times, including school buses. Employees will notify the Administrative Director or designee of all incidents of exposure to bodily fluids and when a student's health condition or behavior presents a reasonable risk of transmitting an infection.</p>
<p>Infection Control</p>	<p>Employees will treat all bodily fluids as hazardous and will follow universal precautions for any exposure to bodily fluids.</p> <p>The school will maintain reasonable and affordable emergency response equipment and supplies necessary for infection control.</p>
<p>Prevention Education 22 Pa.Code §4.4</p>	<p>Parents/Guardians will be provided convenient opportunities to preview all Communicable Diseases prevention curricula and materials.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PRIOR POLICIES AND GUIDELINES</u></p> <p>These guidelines supersede all prior inconsistent guidelines and policies.</p>