

Reports

Heritage Academy authorities, including the Superintendent, Principals, teachers, school health officials, or counselors, shall report to the local health authority those students attending school who are suspected of having a notifiable condition, as defined by state law and the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS). If there is no local health authority appointed or if PC is outside the jurisdiction of a local health authority, the report shall be made to the regional director.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV

Heritage Academy shall report a child attending school who is suspected, based on medical evidence, of having a sexually transmitted disease (STD) and/or is an HIV-exposed infant in accordance with 25 Administrative Code 97.131–.135. If Heritage Academy, or an individual listed under 25 Administrative Code 97.132(1), (3), or (4), does not make the required report, an individual listed under 25 Administrative Code 97.132(2), including a professional nurse, a health professional, a peace officer, and a parent or guardian, must report a person who has or is suspected of having an STD and/or is an HIV-exposed infant.

“School authority” means the Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee. Health and Safety Code 81.003(10).

Penalties

A person commits a Class B misdemeanor if the person knowingly fails to report a reportable disease or health condition under Health and Safety Code Chapter 81, Subchapter B. Health and Safety Code 81.049.

Exclusion

Principals shall exclude from attendance any student suffering from a communicable condition, as defined by the commissioner of health, until one of the criteria for readmittance is fulfilled.

Readmittance

Students excluded for reason of communicable disease shall be readmitted by one or more of the following methods, as determined by the local health authority or the TDSHS regional director if no local health authority has been appointed:

1. Submitting a certificate of the attending physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant attesting that the child does not currently have signs or symptoms of a communicable disease or to the disease’s non-communicability in a school setting.
2. Submitting a permit for readmission issued by a local health authority.

3. Meeting readmission criteria as established by the commissioner of health.

Bacterial Meningitis

In accordance with guidelines provided by the Texas Education Agency, Heritage Academy shall provide information relating to bacterial meningitis to its students and their parents each school year in a manner ensuring that the information is reasonably likely to come to the attention of the parents of each student.