

## **STUDENTS**

**5150 RE**

### **STUDENTS WITH HIV/AIDS AND RELATED DISEASES**

Parishes in the Diocese of Harrisburg cannot prohibit admission to or discriminate against students who attend or desire to attend diocesan elementary and secondary parish religious education programs solely because of HIV infection, AIDS or related diseases.

The parish does reserve the right to dismiss a student or curtail a student's participation on a case by case basis, if the C/DRE and attending physician determine that a student presents a substantial risk to himself/herself or to others. If the C/DRE and attending physician cannot agree, a review board, appointed by the Secretary for Education and consisting of the Secretary of Education or the Diocesan Director of Religious Education, a physician and a microbiologist who are conversant in HIV/AIDS, will make the final determination.

If, for reasons of health or safety, a student can no longer continue to attend classes, arrangements for alternative instruction will be determined by the C/DRE and the parents/guardians.

Parents/guardians are expected to inform the C/DRE if or when their child has HIV/AIDS or related diseases in order that the C/DRE can provide for the protection of the child and other individuals in the parish religious education program.

The number of personnel who are made aware of the student's condition should be kept at the minimum necessary to assure confidentiality and to provide proper care and supervision of the infected student, while at the same time providing for the safety and welfare of other students, employees, and volunteers in the parish. The C/DRE, in consultation with the parents/guardians of the student, will determine those persons who will be informed of the student's condition. No other parish personnel will be informed without prior consultation with the parents/guardians. Subsequent meetings should be scheduled to re-evaluate the condition of the student.

Since immuno-suppressed students are at a greater risk of suffering complications from other infections, the student's parents/guardians should consider removing the student from the parish religious education program during outbreaks of communicable diseases.

In all cases, the students and their parents/guardians are to be treated with Christian compassion and care by all parish personnel.

All parish personnel, including all volunteers who serve the parish religious education program on a regular basis, must be offered instruction on HIV/AIDS or related diseases and on the Universal Precautions to be followed.

All parish personnel are required to follow the Universal Precautions to Prevent the Spread of Infectious Diseases that are included with this policy in order to reduce the risk for

employees, volunteers and students.

This policy shall be reviewed regularly by the Secretary for Education to determine if it adequately meets the needs of the parishes and complies with current medical and legal information. When necessary, this policy will be revised by the Secretary for Education and presented to the Bishop for his approval.

Policy

Adopted: March 11, 1994

NCD/ Bishop of Harrisburg