7110.1 The Board of Education of the Pottstown School District is committed to the provision of a healthful environment for students and employees of the district.

7110.2 The Board supports and maintains a commitment to safeguard the school community against the transmission of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) consistent with the right to a free public education and the obligation to protect the health and welfare of students and employees.

7110.3 As used in this policy, AIDS includes all infections caused by the human T-lymphotropic virus, Type III (HTLV-III), also called lymphadenopathy associated virus (LAV) and includes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), AIDS related complex (ARC), and asymptomatic infections of this virus.

7110.4 This policy applies to all students and employees of the Pottstown School District.

7110.5 Students: The school district central contact person for handling information related to the AIDS policy or AIDS cases is the assistant superintendent.

7110.5a Medical records will be kept confidential.

7110.5b School officials will be involved on a need-to-know basis. (The number of persons informed of an AIDS case will be kept to the minimum necessary to assure proper care and supervision of the individual and school community.)

7110.6 Decisions about the participation of individuals infected with AIDS-related virus in the school setting will be made on a case by case basis.

7110.7 Participation in any school related activity (curricular or extracurricular) by students who have been diagnosed by a physician as having AIDS shall be determined as follows:
The school physician in communication with the child's physician shall make a preliminary recommendation to the district as to the health risks associated with the case.
(1) If potential health risks are identified by the school physician, a committee comprised of the supervisor, head nurse, school physician, patient’s family physician, assistant superintendent, school solicitor, and local health official shall be convened.

(2) The committee shall review and assess all pertinent aspects of the case in order to determine the student's appropriate educational and social alternatives as they relate to school activities.

7110.7b The superintendent or his designee may, after consulting with the school solicitor, provide an alternative educational placement (including a recommendation for exclusion for homebound instruction) for the student, pending the timely recommendations of the designated physician and/or the committee.

7110.7c Committee members shall be: assistant superintendent, designated school physician, school solicitor, head school nurse, building nurse, building principal, and local health official.

7110.7d The committee shall make a timely recommendation to the superintendent regarding participation of the student in school activities.

7110.7e The superintendent, after consulting with the school solicitor, shall promptly make a final decision on the student's participation in school activities.

7110.7f The committee shall meet periodically to review their recommendations to the superintendent regarding participation of the student in school activities.
Decisions of the superintendent and committee shall be consistent with rights afforded students under the Pennsylvania School Code, regulations of the Department of Education, and other state and federal laws applicable to the right to education.
Employees: After being informed by an employee that they have been diagnosed by a physician as having AIDS, the school solicitor shall be immediately notified and an emergency meeting of the committee shall be called to evaluate his/her employment status.

Such determination shall be made by the Board of School Directors upon the recommendation of the superintendent.

(1) The superintendent's recommendation shall be made after consultation with the school solicitor, assistant superintendent, employee, employee's physician, supervisor, designated school physician, and local health official.

Any decisions made by the superintendent and/or the Board of School Directors shall be consistent with the rights afforded an employee under the Pennsylvania School Code, regulations of the Department of Education, and applicable collective bargaining agreements.

The Pottstown Board of School Directors recognized the need to prevent and protect the students and staff of the Pottstown School District from the spread of infection in order to maintain the health and safety of all.

Therefore, during procedures in which contact with blood and body fluids are conducted, all students and personnel shall be required to use universal precautions.

Universal precautions refers to a method of infection control in which all human blood and other potentially infectious materials are treated as if known to be infectious for HIV or HBV.

In August, 1987, the Center for Disease Control published guidelines recommending that blood and other body fluids from all individuals be considered potentially infectious
and that rigorous infection control precautions be taken to minimize the risk of exposure.
7110.12 The superintendent or a designee shall review the CDC guidelines and OSHA rules on an annual basis and direct the students and staff accordingly.

7110.13 The superintendent or a designee shall inform school physicians, school dentists, all other school staff, and students of the requirements necessary to meet and carry out universal precautions for the prevention and spread of infectious diseases.

7110.14 It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that all students and staff receive general information about blood-borne infectious diseases and are informed of the occupational exposure risk factors associated with the transmission of these diseases, including Hepatitis B Virus and Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

7110.14a This needs to be done so that each student and staff member can recognize potentially hazardous situations and take precautions to avoid or minimize risk.

7110.15 Handling of Body Fluids The body fluids of all persons should be considered to contain potentially infectious agents or germs.

7110.15a Generally, the risk is very low and is dependent upon a variety of factions.

7110.15b The following guidelines are meant to provide simple and effective precautions against transmission of disease for all persons.

(1) Definition of Body Fluids

- Blood (cuts, abrasions, nosebleeds, menses, contaminated needles)
- Semen
- Drainage from scrapes and cuts
- Feces (incontinence)
- Urine (incontinence)
- Respiratory secretions (saliva,
nasal discharge)
- Vomitus
(2) Avoiding Contact with Body Fluids
- When possible, direct contact with body fluids should be avoided.
- Gloves or other protective covering should be worn when direct contact with body fluids is anticipated.

(3) Direct Skin Contact with Body Fluids
- If contact is made with body fluids, hands and/or other affected skin areas should be washed immediately.
- Proper hand washing requires the use of germicidal soap and water along with vigorous washing under a stream of running water for about ten (10) seconds.
- Followed by a rinse of 1:10 chlorine solution (found in every health room).

(4) Disposal of Spilled Body Fluids and Contaminated Articles
- Disposable gloves should be worn when cleaning up body fluids and/or articles contaminated with body fluids.
- Clothing and other non-disposable items (e.g., towels) soaked with body fluids should be rinsed as soon as possible, washed with germicidal soap and chlorine bleach, and placed in plastic bags.
- The area should be sprayed with a 1:10 chlorine solution to kill the virus before putting sanitary absorbent agents on it.
- Sanitary absorbent agents should be applied to the spill, left for a few minutes to absorb the fluid, and then vacuumed or swept up.
- Gloves used for the above procedures shall be disposed of in a plastic bag and then placed in the red hazardous
- waste bag located in the health rooms.
- Following disposal of the spill, a disinfectant of 1:10 chlorine solution should be applied.
If heavy duty plastic cleaning gloves are used, gloves may be disinfected in 1:10 chlorine solution and reused.

(5) Disinfectants

- Sodium Hypochlorite with at least 100 ppm available chlorine (½ cup household bleach in one (1) gallon of water – must be freshly prepared each time used).
- Phenolic Germicidal Detergent in a 1% aqueous solution, such as Lysol.
- Quaternary Ammonium Germicidal Detergent in 2% aqueous solution.

(6) Disinfection of Surfaces and Equipment

- Non-disposable equipment (mops, brushes, buckets, etc.) should be soaked in disinfectant, rinsed and washed in hot water.
- Disposable equipment (gloves, plastic bags, etc.) and water should be placed in a plastic bag and properly disposed of in the hazardous waste bag.
- Remove gloves last and place in the hazardous waste appropriate container.

(7) Laundry of Soiled Articles

- Clothing and linens should be washed with bleach (1:10 solution), germicidal soap, and water.
- For rugs apply sanitary absorbent agent, let dry, and vacuum. Apply rug shampoo (a germicidal detergent) with a brush and revacuum.

This policy is based on current medical research and status of the law. The policy will be periodically re-evaluated and, if necessary, revised in response to new medical and legal developments.