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■ POLICY

□ GUIDELINE

ADMINISTRATION

AIDS

The Diocese of Columbus recognizes that AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) and/or symptomatic or asymptomatic infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a life-threatening disease and a major health issue. The epidemic proportions of this disease prompted the diocese to adopt a policy which seeks protection of the rights and welfare of all students and staff.

Attendance

In keeping with the recommendations of the Surgeon General's Report each case of a youth with HIV/or AIDS shall be dealt with individually. Youth who are diagnosed as having HIV/or AIDS remain in the normal youth ministry program as their illness allows.

Confidentiality

The Diocese recognizes the dignity and rights of all persons and is sensitive and responsive to the concerns of those who have HIV/or AIDS. Information concerning the health of any youth with HIV/or AIDS shall be treated as confidential.

Procedure

Because adolescents with HIV/or AIDS are highly susceptible to infections from other youth, the Surgeon General's report recommends that the program involve an AIDS evaluation team in the medical evaluation of infected students. The report further recommends that the youth's physician, a public health official (or physician specializing in factious diseases) and the youth's parent (s) or guardian (s) collaborate with the designated program officials (pastor, coordinator of youth ministry, and appropriate youth ministry team members) in conducting the evaluation. Based upon the recommendations of the evaluation team, the program's administration shall permit the student to remain active in youth ministry events under restricted conditions.