

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Los Angeles Unified School District

DATE: October 20, 2007

TO: Principals of Senior High Schools

FROM Rene Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent
Student Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: DISTRIBUTION OF CONDOMS

In 1992, the Board approved a policy to distribute condoms to students in senior high schools unless parents do not consent. Condoms are being supplied at no charge to the District by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health in an ongoing effort to mitigate the spread of sexually transmitted disease, including HIV infection, among LAUSD high school students.

The County Office of AIDS Programs and Policy is “committed to ensuring that students, community-based health providers, parents, and school administrators understand the importance of promoting the availability of these risk-reduction tools given the continuing impact of HIV on our school age youth.” Although the policy of the District is to instruct all students that abstinence is the only one hundred percent effective method of preventing infection, the District also realizes that not all students will practice abstinence and that some other means to stop the alarming spread of sexual disease must be used. Since medical experts agree that the use of condoms can reduce the spread, the District has established a policy of making condoms available to high school students and instructing them that a condom properly used can provide protection against the sexual transmission of the HIV/AIDS virus.

PROCEDURES

Each senior high school should have a committee that oversees the implementation of the approved policy on the distribution of condoms as a means of preventing HIV/AIDS infection and that acts as a resource to the entire school community. Suggested committee membership is as follows:

- Principal or designee
- Health Teacher
- Nurse
- Impact Coordinator
- P.E. Teacher or a Coach
- Other staff members who might be interested

The above suggestions are by no means all-inclusive but should be used as a guide. The committee should be included in the decision-making process, which will consist of answers to the following questions:

- What information will be given to students?
- Who will provide the information?
- Where will condoms be distributed?
- Who will distribute the condoms?

In adherence to Board policy, the attached parent **notification** form is to be given to students upon enrollment at the school in the enrollment packet along with the annual *Parent Student Handbook* (which also includes the parent notification).

Condoms may be ordered by using the attached order form and FAXING it to the AIDS Prevention Unit at (213) 749-0553. If you have questions, please contact Ric Loya at: Nursing Services, 1430 San Julian St #2, Los Angeles, 90015 or call him at (213) 765-2826

Attachments: Parent/Guardian Annual **Notification** Letter (Attachment A), Parent/Guardian Annual Notification Letter (Spanish Translation) (Attachment B), and Condom Order Form (Attachment C)

(School Letterhead)
(sample letter)

Date _____

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Subject: Parents/Guardians Annual Notification Regarding Condom Availability Program

HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases are epidemic in our community. Public health statistics and reports indicate that increasing numbers of young people in their early teens are becoming involved in activities that put them at risk for infection. Although the District does offer education which emphasizes abstinence as the only one hundred percent effective method of preventing infection, the District also realizes that not all students will practice abstinence, and therefore should be instructed that a condom properly used does provide protection against sexual transmission of the HIV/AIDS virus. In view of these facts, and in collaboration with medical and public health authorities, the Board of Education enacted a policy in 1992 to make condoms available for students unless parents contact the school in writing denying permission.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health will make condoms available at no cost to students who request them unless you, as the parent or guardian, withdraw permission by submitting a written letter to the school. In making condoms available, the District assumes no liability.

If you do not wish your son/daughter to be able to obtain condoms through the school's Condom Availability Program, please submit a written letter to the school at any time.

Principal

(School letterhead)
(sample letter)

Fecha _____

Estimados Padres o Tutores,

Tema: Aviso anual a los padre o tutores sobre el Programa de Disponibilidad de Condones

El HIV/SIDA y las enfermedades transmitidas sexualmente son epidémicos en nuestra comunidad. Las estadísticas y los informes de salubridad indican un aumento en el número de jóvenes adolescentes que están participando en actividades que les ponen en riesgo de contraer infecciones. Aunque el Distrito ofrece educación que enfatiza la abstinencia como el único método cien por ciento eficaz para prevenir infecciones, el Distrito también se da cuenta de que no todos los estudiantes practicarán la abstinencia, y por lo tanto debe ser instruido que un condón usado correctamente proporciona protección contra la transmisión sexual del virus de HIV/SIDA. En vista de estos hechos y en colaboración con autoridades médicas y de salubridad, la Junta de Educación decretó una norma en 1992 que hizo disponibles los condones para los estudiantes, a menos que los padres no den su consentimiento.

El Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Condado hará disponibles condones gratis para los estudiantes que los solicitan, a menos que usted, como el padre o el tutor, niegue su permiso por medio de una carta por escrito. Al hacer disponibles los condones, el Distrito no asume ninguna responsabilidad.

Si usted no desea que su hijo/a obtenga condones de la escuela por medio del Programa de Disponibilidad de Condones, por favor entregue una carta por escrito a la escuela a cualquier tiempo.

Director(a)