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HEADLINE: U.S. **SAYS SCHOOLS SHOULDN'T BAR PUPILS WITH AIDS**

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BODY:
Most children with AIDS should be allowed in the classroom, and school officials should do their best to protect the pupils' privacy, Federal health authorities said today. The statement came amid dispute over letting victims of the ailment, acquired immune deficiency syndome, go into public schools.

"For most infected children, the benefits of an unrestricted setting would outweigh the apparent nonexistent risk of transmission," the national Centers for Disease Control said.

The health agencies, based here, said decisions on the care and education of a child with AIDS virus, designated HTLV3-LAV, should be made on an individual basis, taking into account the child's behavior, development and physical condition and the pupil's expected interaction with other children.

AIDS, which cripples the body's disease-fighting mechanism, is caused by a virus and is generally thought to be transmitted through blood, blood products or body fluids, in intimate contact.

No Risk Seen in School Contacts

"Casual person-to-person contact, as among schoolchildren, appears to pose no risk," the center said in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. At least 183 people under 18 years old have contracted AIDS, and 2 to 10 times as many are likely to be infected, according to Dr. Martha Rogers, a specialist with the centers' AIDS panel.

No children have ever been found to have contracted AIDS in school, day care, foster care or other casual contact, the agencies said. But as far as their researchers are aware, no public school system in this country has admitted a child with AIDS.

"The reasons I've seen given for keeping them out are not very good reasons," Dr. Rogers said. "We're trying to educate people as to the real transmission modes.

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"I don't see any need to keep them out. They have enough suffering without it being made more so by the rest of society.'"

'Much Fear' Is Evoked

The threat of AIDS, which has killed 6,376 of its 12,736 reported victims in this country, the centers said, "evokes much fear from others in contact with the patient."

The ailment, first diagnosed in 1981, occurs most often in homosexual men, intravenous drug abusers and recipients of transfusions and blood products. Some cases have occurred among sexual partners of AIDS patients. Seventy percent of the cases found in children have developed in offspring of parents who had the ailment or were in a high-risk group.

School personnel and others involved with AIDS children "should respect the child's right to privacy, including maintaining confidential records," the center urged.

"A more restricted environment" is recommended for certain children with AIDS, specifically those under school age, who are handicapped and cannot control their body secretions or who might bite other children, the centers said.

But screening of all children for AIDS before they enter school "is not warranted," the agency said.