**ND Health Services and requirement of the State of Pennsylvania**

**Notes and Information from the School Nurse**

Notre Dame has a Nurse that has an office located both in the Elementary School and the Junior/Senior High School.

Current schedule with Notre Dame – Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

Lynn W. Pappalardo CSN, RN

(570) 421-3651

**Mandated Health Screenings**

Pennsylvania School Health Services provides the following mandated health services to students during the school year.

1. **Medical Examinations**

According to the Pennsylvania Public School Code Section 1420e

Physical examinations are required (1) upon original entry into the school in the Commonwealth, (2) while in the sixth grade, and (3) while in eleventh grade. Physicals done by a family physician within one year prior to entry into the grade where and examination is required and recorded on a state form are acceptable by state regulations. Forms may be obtained through the school nurse.

Parents / guardians who choose to have their child examined in the school by the school physician will be notified of the time and date of the examination. Parents are encouraged to be present during the examination. School physicals are done through the public school system.

2. **Dental Examinations**

Dental examinations are required upon original entry (K), 3rd, and 7th grade, including all new students upon original entry into the district. School dental screenings are provided free by the certified school dental hygienist at school to meet this mandate. In lieu of the school screening, parents may submit a private dental report from their family dentist by November 1 of the current school year or sixty days after enrolling in the district. The date of the private exam may not exceed one year prior to the start of the school year.

3. **Vision Screening**

Visions screening is done annually for all grades K – 12.

4. **Hearing Screening**

Hearing screening is done in grades K, 1, 2, 3, 7, 11 and all other children who are newly enrolled in the district or who have a history of hearing concerns.

5. **Growth Screening**

Growth screening is the height, weight, and BMI percentile which is done for all grades K – 12.

6. **Scoliosis Screening**

Scoliosis screening is done in 6th and 7th grade.

**Screening Referrals**

What does a referral mean?

If you receive a referral form after any school screening, it means that the screening detected a possible concern. Further evaluation by a professional health care provider is recommended. Please have your private physician (or health care provider), dentist, or eye doctor complete the form after evaluating your child. Return the completed form to the school nurse. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school nurse.

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**Growth Screenings**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health requires school districts to calculate Body Mass Index (BMI) in all grade levels K – 12.

Healthy children come in all sizes and shapes, and BMI percentile is used as a guideline to help assess whether **BODY MASS INDEX (BMI)** is a good way to monitor your child’s weight to determine if he/she is at risk for certain chronic diseases. The BMI formula helps to see whether a child’s weight is in proportion to her or her height.

A **BMI PERCENTILE (BMI)** indicates how a person’s measurements compare to others of the same age and gender.

BMI less than the 5th percentile……………………………………………Underweight

BMI between the 6th and 84th percentiles…………………………….Normal weight

BMI between the 85th and 95th percentiles…………………………..At risk for overweight

BMI equal to or greater than the 95th percentile…………………..Overweight

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

<http://www.cdc.gov/growthcharts>

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**Medications During School Hours**

**Objective**

To administer medication ordered by a physician that is necessary to allow the student to maintain sufficient health to attend school.

**Procedure**

A “Physician’s authorization for Medication During School Hours / Activities” form must be completed by the physician and signed by the parent/guardian before medication can be given in school. In the absence of this form, there must be a written order from the physician and a note from the parent/guardian requesting administration of the medication. The school nurse may accept a verbal order from the student’s physician only in an emergency situation.

“Physician’s Authorization for Medication Administration During School Hours/Activities” should include:

* Name of student
* Date
* Diagnosis
* Medication, dosage, time schedule and duration
* Special conditions to observe
* Physician’s signature, address, and phone number (fax number, if possible)
* Parent’s/guardian’s signature

Medication must be in an original, labeled container (by the physician or pharmacy).

The supply of medication brought to school must be documented.

Parents/guardians are requested to bring all medications to school.

Medications are kept in a designated, locked area in the main office or, when necessary in the refrigerator.

The school nurse has primary responsibility for the administration of medication including:

a) Reporting to physician and/or parent(s) guardian(s).

b) Conferring with physician and/or parent(s).

c) Informing, when appropriate, school staff regarding a student’s medication requirements.

d) Administering and recording of medication data.

Written documentation of the administration of medication will be kept. These records will include the student’s name, the name of the medication the dosage, the time and date of dispensation, and the signature of the person administering the medication.

The nurse may refuse to administer any type of medication. The parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified of this action.

In the absence of the school nurse, the principal is responsible for the administration of medication.

If it is necessary to administer emergency medication, the school nurse can administer only those medications for which the chief school physician or individual student’s physician has authorized standing or emergency orders.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for informing the school nurse of any changes in the health and/or medication of the student. When changes occur, the parent(s)/guardian(s) must return a new medication order form to the nurse. Medication, including over-the-counter medications, will be administered only upon written order from the physician.

All medications must be kept in the nurse’s office. Students are not allowed to carry medications with them unless a physician’s order states that they must do so and all appropriate paperwork has been completed and necessary approvals have been gained. There are only two medications which students may carry: Epipens and inhalers. Violations may be considered for appropriate disciplinary consequences.

Students in possession of over-the-counter prescriptions or other types of drugs which have not been registered with the school nurse will be considered to be in violation of Notre Dame’s drug and alcohol policy and will be subject to the disciplinary action as set forth therein.

Notre Dame will incur **NO** liability for the use of unauthorized drugs or medications.

This policy is in effect for all Notre Dame sponsored activities and field trips.

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**COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN CHILDREN AND STAFF ATTENDING SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE GROUP SETTINGS**

Section 27.71. Exclusion of children, and staff having contact with children, for specified diseases and infectious conditions.

A person in charge of a public, private, parochial, Sunday or other school or college shall exclude from school a child, or a staff person, including a volunteer, who has contact with children, who is suspected by a physician or the school nurse of having any of the communicable diseases, infections or conditions. Readmission shall be contingent upon the school nurse or, in the absence of the school nurse, a physician, verifying that the criteria for readmission have been satisfied. The diseases, the periods of exclusion and the criteria for readmission are as follows:

(1) Diphtheria. Two week from the onset or until appropriate negative culture tests.

(2) Measles. Four days from the onset of rash. Exclusion may also be ordered by the Department as specified in Section 27.160 (relating to special requirements for measles).

(3) Mumps. Nine days from the onset or until subsidence of swelling.

(4) Pertussis. Three weeks from the onset or 5 days from institution of appropriate antimicrobial therapy.

(5) Rubella. Four days from the onset of rash.

(6) Chickenpox. Five days from the appearance of the first crop of vesicles, or when all the lesions have dried can crusted, whichever is sooner.

(7) Respiratory streptococcal infections including scarlet fever. At least 10 days from the onset if no physician is in attendance or 24 hours after institution of appropriate antimicrobial therapy.

(8) Infectious conjunctivitis (pink eye). Until judged not infective; that is, without a discharge.

(9) Ringworm. The person shall be allowed to return to either the school, child care or other group setting immediately after first treatment. The person shall be reexamined for infestation by the school nurse, or other health care practitioner, 7 days post-treatment.

(10) Impetigo contagiosa. Twenty-four hours after the institution of appropriate treatment.

(11) Pediculosis capitis. The person shall be allowed to return to either the school, child care or other group setting immediately after first treatment. The person shall be reexamined for infestation by the school nurse, or other health care practitioner, 7 days post treatment.

(12) Pediculosis corpora. After completion of appropriate treatment.

(13) Scabies. After completion of appropriate treatment.

(14) Trachoma. Twenty-four hours after institution of appropriate treatment.

(15) Tuberculosis. Following a minimum of 2 weeks of adequate chemotherapy and three consecutive negative morning sputum smears, if obtainable. In addition, a note from the attending physician that the person is non-communicable shall be submitted prior to readmission.

(16) Neisseria meningitides. Until judged non-infective after a course of rifampin or other drug which is effective against the nasopharyngeal carriage state of this disease, or until otherwise shown to be non-infective.

Source

The provisions of this Section 27.71 amended January 25, 2002, effective January 26, 2002, 32 Pa.B. 491. Immediately preceding text appears at serial pages (243670) to (243671).

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**Health Forms**

Hearing Referral

Medication During School Hours

Authorization to Carry/Self-Administration Inhaler/Epipen

Parent Notification Physical

Physical Exam

Scoliosis Referral

Vision Screening

Public Health Information

Dental Hygienist

**Immunizations**

Pennsylvania’s school immunization requirements can be found in 28 PA. Code CH.23 (School Immunization)

Children in ALL grades (K-12) need the following Immunizations for attendance:

* 4 doses of tetanus\*
* 4 does of diphtheria\*
* 3 doses of polio
* 2 does of measles\*\*
* 2 doses of mumps\*\*
* 1 dose of rubella (German measles)\*\*
* 3 doses of hepatitis B
* 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or immunity

7th Grade ADDITIONAL immunization requirements for entry:

* 1 dose meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)
* 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) (if five years have elapsed since last tetanus immunization)

\*Usually given as DTP or DT or Td

\*\* Usually given as MMR

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**Exemptions**

The only exemption to the school laws for immunizations is:

* Medical reasons
* Religious beliefs

If your child is exempt from immunizations, he or she may be removed from school during an outbreak.

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**Vaccines**

* Vaccines are held to the highest standard of safety
* The United States has the safest, most effective vaccine supplies in history
* Vaccines are continually monitored for safety and effectiveness

Children with incomplete immunizations at the start of the school year may be provisionally enrolled for an eight-month period as long as they have one of each of the antigens. If you have any questions concerning your child’s immunizations, please contact the school nurse. You can also call your doctor or the local health department.