

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.

If you need to speak with her during the day call the Notre Dame Office

Mrs. Pappalardo

Phone: **(570) 421-3651**

[Swine Flu - April 30, 2009](#)

- As concerns circulate through the media regarding the swine influenza outbreak, schools have started receiving inquiries from parents and staff.
- Click the link above for a press release from the PA Dept. of Health as well as links to the latest information from the CDC.
- Questions and Answers: Swine Flu and You. http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.htm
- What's New on the Swine Flu Site. <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/whatsnew.htm>
- Swine Influenza: General Information. http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/general_info.htm

[MRSA Fact Page from CDC](#)

[January Newsletter from Nurse](#)

[Guidelines for keeping your child home if ill](#)

Mandated Health Screenings

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

1. Medical Examinations

According to the Pennsylvania Public School Code Section 1402e

Physical examinations are required (1) upon original entry into 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 an examination is required and recorded on a state form are acceptable by state regulations. Forms

may be obtained through the school nurse or by clicking the following [link](#).

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.

Board Policy #209 states that “students who fail to complete and/or submit acceptable evidence of required medical examination or dental screenings within the appropriate time period will not be admitted to school the following school year unless and until acceptable proof of compliance is received.”

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

Vision 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 a hearing concern.

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 question or concerns please contact the school nurse.

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 you 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 his or her height.

A **BMI PERCENTILE** 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/>

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 medication to school

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

Unused medications may be picked up by the parent or guardian no later than the last day of the school year; medications which are not picked up will be destroyed fourteen (14) days after the close of the school year.

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)/guardian(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. Student are not allowed to carry medications with the unless a physician's order states that they must do so and all appropriate paperwork has been completed and necessary approvals have been gained. Violations may be considered for appropriate disciplinary consequences.

Student is possession of over-the-counter, prescription or other types of drugs which have not been registered with the school nurse will be considered to be in violation of the school district's drug and alcohol policy and will be subject to the disciplinary action as set forth therein*.

The school district will incur **NO** liability for the use of unauthorized drugs or medications.

This policy is in effect for all school district sponsored activities and field trips.

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

§ 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 weeks 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 § 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 and 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 school, child care or other group setting immediately after the first treatment, if body lesions are covered. Neither scalp nor body lesions that are dried need to be covered.

(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 posttreatment.

(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 adequate chemotherapy and three consecutive negative morning sputum smears, if obtainable. In addition, a note from the attending physician that the person is noncommunicable shall be submitted prior to readmission.

(16) *Neisseria meningitidis*. Until judged noninfective 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 noninfective.

Source

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

Notes of Decisions

Exclusion; Removal

A student who was excluded from school due to head lice was not “removed” for disciplinary reasons as contemplated by Federal regulations, was not denied free appropriate public education and was not entitled to compensatory education. *Souderton Area School District v. Elisabeth S.*, 820 A.2d 863 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2003).

Cross References

This section cited in 28 Pa. Code § 27.76 (relating to exclusion and readmission of children, and staff having contact with children, in child care group settings).

Health Forms

- Hearing Referral

 [hearing_referral.pdf](#), 13.14 KB (Last Modified on April 25, 2012)

- Medication During School Hours

 [Medication.pdf](#), 38.33 KB (Last Modified on August 14, 2012)

- Authorization to Carry/Self-Administration Inhaler/EPIPEN

 [EPIPEN.pdf](#), 38.33 KB (Last Modified on August 14, 2012)

- Parent Notification Physical

 [parent_notification.pdf](#), 15.96 KB (Last Modified on April 25, 2012)

- Physical Exam

 [padoh_physical.pdf](#), 70.36 KB (Last Modified on April 25, 2012)

- Scoliosis Referral

 [scoliosis_referral.pdf](#), 57.80 KB (Last Modified on April 25, 2012)

- Vision Screening

 [vision_screening.pdf](#), 12.63 KB (Last Modified on April 25, 2012)

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 doses of diphtheria*
- 3 doses of polio
- 2 doses 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

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.

Vaccines

- Vaccines are held to the highest standard of safety
- The United States has the safest, most effective vaccine supply 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.

- **Authorization to Carry Self administered Medication --**
<http://www.esasd.net/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=3124&dataid=1575&FileName=EPIPEN.pdf>

Medication During School Hours --
<http://www.esasd.net/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=3124&dataid=369&FileName=Medication.pdf>