



Long County Board of Education School Health Services Information

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Optimal learning requires good health. The School Nurses are proud to be part of the team effort that supports student success. As we work with you this year, we need your assistance and cooperation in preparing for the possibility that your child might need to take medication, become ill, or have an accident during school hours. We hope this letter will help explain our procedures. School health services supplement rather than replace parental responsibility. Our program is designed to assist parents/guardians in devoting attention to child health, to discover health problems early, and to encourage use of the services of their physician, dentist, and community health agencies when needed. The school nurse is a resource for health related issues and for health education.

HEALTH HISTORY & EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Health history and emergency contact information must be updated annually and as changes occur by sending the information to the school or by calling the school nurse. When you receive an Annual Student Health Information Form, please update it and return to school within three (3) days. It is very important that we know the health needs our students have as soon as school starts. Injuries and emergencies can happen on day one! Current accurate information will enable us to provide optimal care to your child. Make sure that the school knows how to reach you during the day and that there is a back-up plan and phone number on file, if the school can not reach you. **Please ensure that we have a working telephone number on file.**

SCHOOL MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

If medications can be given at home before or after school hours, please do so. Do not send medication to school which needs to be given only once during the day. Parents should check with their physician regarding the need for medication to be administered during school hours. Medication prescribed for three (3) times daily, often can be given before the child leaves home for school, after he/she gets home from school and at bedtime. **However, if medications must be given during school hours, the following procedures apply.** For prescription medications, a parent or legal guardian must complete and sign a *School Medication Authorization Form* for all medications given at school. A parent/legal guardian or other designated adult must bring all medication with the signed *School Medication Authorization Form* to the school clinic. **At no time may medication be in the reach of children. Students are not allowed to transport medications.** Prescription medications must be clearly labeled with the physician's name, name of medication, strength, dosage, date, time for administration, and dispensing pharmacy. When medication is to be given at home and at school, **ask your pharmacist to fill the prescription in 2 labeled containers, one for home and one for school.** It will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the school of any changes in medications. **New medications or new dosage changes will not be given unless a new *School Medication Authorization Form* and a newly labeled prescription container is provided to the school clinic.**

- **Long-term medication (more than two (2) weeks will require authorization from your child's health care provider.**
- Assistance/supervision will be given in accordance with the instructions on the school medication authorization form. Medication is a parental responsibility; school employees will not assume any liability for supervising or assisting in the administration of medication.
- **All over-the-counter medications and prescription medications must be in the original containers** and be FDA approved. If a child requires an over the counter medication, which is supplied on the attached form more than three times, the parent must furnish the medication. **All medications including over the counter drugs must be brought to the school clinic by an adult.**
- If your child has a life-threatening condition (i.e. asthma, diabetes, or allergic reaction), permission may be granted to carry medication (such as inhaler, glucose tablet, Epi-pen, or internal Insulin pump) on his or her person. Such permission will require a completed and signed *School Medication Authorization Form* from the child's health care provider and parent/guardian. **Students with asthma or severe allergic reactions are encouraged to keep a second inhaler or Epi-pen in the clinic for emergency use during school even if they do carry such emergency medication.** This will help assure the ability of the staff to assist the student in the event the student does not have their medication on their person and is unable to instruct others where to find it. If a student has these conditions, a parent conference with the school nurses and other staff should be conducted to develop a Health Plan for the student. Under no circumstances should medications be shown or shared with other students. If medications are shown/shared with class mates the medication will be immediately confiscated and the student's privilege of self-administration will be revoked.
- A nurse is not always available to assist in the administration of the medication. The student may be assisted by an adult designated by the principal.
- Unused medication should be retrieved from the school clinic within one week after medication is discontinued; otherwise the school will dispose of the medication. Medication should be picked up prior to the end of school year. **All medication left at school after one week following the last day of school will be disposed of by the school.**

STUDENT ILLNESS/INJURY

The school nurse makes every effort to keep students healthy and in school and parents at work. However, if illness or injury is potentially harmful to the student or others, the parent must be able to be contacted and arrange for the student to be taken home. Please help us to control exposure to illness in school, prevent the spread of diseases, and reduce the number of absences due to illness.

DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF HE/SHE:

- Has a fever (100.2 degrees or higher) during the night or in the morning
- Has experienced vomiting or diarrhea during the night or in the morning
- Have a persistent cough and /or large amounts of green-yellow nasal discharge
- Has an unidentified rash or open, draining skin sore
- Has an eye irritation with drainage
- Have tiny eggs and/or insects in his/her hair

Students with contagious infections need to stay home so they will not expose others. If your child is home with a **communicable illness**, please contact the school nurse so the parent(s) of other classmates may be alerted of symptoms.

- Children must be fever free, temperature below 100.2 degrees, for 24 hours **without fever medication** before returning to school.
- If you find head lice in your child's hair, please notify the school nurse. The school nurse can advise you how to treat appropriately, how to manually remove nits, and treat your household before returning to school. **Upon return to school, bring your child to the clinic first so the school nurse can help you be sure your child is free of nits before returning to class.**
- A child with chicken pox may return to school when all of the lesions have scabbed (Usually 5-7 days).
- Impetigo, ringworm, shingles, & scabies must be under treatment to return to school. In some cases lesions may have to be covered.
- If your child has reoccurring vomiting and/or diarrhea, they must stay home.
- A child with bacterial Pink Eye (thick drainage and redness of the whites of the eyes throughout) may return to school after 24 hours of physician prescribed treatment. **Upon return to school, bring your child to the clinic first for evaluation by the nurse.**

By working together, we can strive to ensure the health and well being of every student so that they can participate in his/her educational program and learn to their optimal level. Please do not hesitate to contact your school nurse with any concerns/questions, so that together we can make this a Happy and Healthy school year!

Parent - Keep this page for your reference.

Updated 5/28/09