

Medway Public Schools School Nurse Health Services

Web Site Information



Welcome to the School Nurse Health Services web site information. We are pleased to be able to provide you with a quick reference to questions or issues that you may have regarding your child while at school. You are encouraged to review the information and certainly call your school nurse with any questions or concerns. Let us know if you have a topic or information that you would like added. As always, we are available to you with any questions or concerns.

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School Nurse Health Services

“School nursing today is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well being, academic success, and lifelong achievement of students. To that end, the school nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy and learning.”

~ National Association of School Nurses ~

School Physician

Andreea Cazacu, M.D.

School Nurses

Penny McKay, RN, BSN, MSN, Coordinator

Denise Butler, RN, BSN

High School Nurse

dbutler@medway.k12.ma.us

508-533-6643 ext 5108

Leslie Ebert, BS, RN

Middle School Nurse

ebert@medway.k12.ma.us

508-533-7654 ext 4123

Christine Babicz, RN, BSN, MSN

Burke-Memorial School

cbabicz@medway.k12.ma.us

508-533-3265 ext 5205

Penny McKay, RN, BSN, MSN

McGovern School

pmckay@medway.k12.ma.us

508-533-6626 ext 5354

Cheryl Gay, RN, BSN, NCSN

Burke School

chgay@medway.k12.ma.us

508-533-3242 ext 5152



School Nurse Health Service

The role of the school nurse has evolved throughout the years. We monitor the health status and identify and address unmet needs of students. The services provided through the Health Office are defined by the National Association of School Nurses as well as the School Health Unit of the Department of Public Health in Massachusetts. The following are services provided by the school nurses in the Medway School District:

Provides direct health care to students and staff

- Illness assessment and care
- Triage, injury treatment and prevention
- Management of chronic conditions
- Administration of medications

Provides leadership for the provision of health services

- Health expert within the school
- Assures that the health needs are met for all students
- Individualized health care planning and case management for students with special health care needs
- Crisis team member

Provides screening and referral for health conditions

- Hearing and vision screening
- Postural screening
- Height, weight and BMI measurements

Promotes a healthy school environment

- Management of school records
- Immunizations
- Physical examinations
- Communicable disease prevention and control
- Environmental health and safety

Promotes health

- Health counseling and health promotion

Serves in a leadership role for health policies and promotion

- Develops school health policies/protocols to reflect the current delivery of care to students
- Member of the Health Advisory Committee

Serves as a liaison between school personnel, family, community, and health care providers

- Facilitates access to health care services and insurances
- Intercommunication between students, parents, school community and health care providers

School Nurse Health Office Guidelines

The following guidelines briefly highlight the protocols practiced in the Health Office. These are general guidelines of the most common occurrences. Your school nurse is always available for consultation.



Medications

The use of specific, necessary medications during school hours will allow students to attend and remain in school, and will facilitate a level of well being that will enhance student participation in the classroom.

The Medway Public Schools follow the Medication Administration Protocol from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Regulation 105 CMR 210.000.

The school nurse, in collaboration with the parent or guardian, will establish a medication administration plan for each student receiving medication. Whenever possible, a student who understands the issues of medication administration will be involved in the decision-making process and his/her preferences respected to the maximum extent possible.

The following information outlines only the main points of the policy. The school nurse is always available to consult with you should you have any questions or concerns.

- All medication, prescriptions and over the counter medications require a physician's order and completed parental permission form. Without this, the medication is **not** given.
- All prescription medication must be labeled and in a current pharmacy bottle.
- All over the counter medication must be in the original packaging.
- Medications must be delivered to school by the parent, guardian or responsible adult. Children are not allowed to transport medication unless it is medically indicated and after consultation with the school nurse.
- All medication orders expire at the end of the school year. New medication orders are needed for the start of a new school year.
- Medications must be picked up at the end of the school year. Any remaining medication will be destroyed.



Physical Examinations

The physical examination is important for preventive, diagnostic or corrective purposes. Its objectives are to understand and follow up on health conditions that may adversely affect the student's well-being and ability to learn.

The following are requirements for physical examinations according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Guidelines.

- Entry into the Medway Public Schools at any level. An examination within one year will be accepted.
- Grades Pre-K, K, 4, 7 and 9.
- Annually prior to participation in the high school sports program. This is also a Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association requirement.

Every child in Massachusetts should have access to medical and dental care. Please contact your school nurse for information regarding free or low-cost insurance for your school-aged children.

Immunizations

Immunizations are a vital communicable disease control mechanism, and evaluation of current immunization status is recognized as an important checkpoint in determining the student's affiliation with a primary care provider.

Massachusetts' immunization regulations specify minimum immunization requirements for enrollment in school. The law and regulations provide for exclusion of students from school if immunizations are not current. No child will be allowed to attend school without documented proof of a current immunization status.

Pre K	4 DPT 3 OPV/IPV 3 Hepatitis B 1 or 2 MMR (depending on age of child) 1 Varicella (chicken pox) or physician verified date of disease Proof of Hib vaccine Lead screening
Kindergarten	5 DPT 4 OPV/IPV 3 Hepatitis B 2 MMR 2 Varicella (chicken pox) or physician documentation of disease ** Lead screening (at any age) Vision screening by physician (acuity and stereopsis)

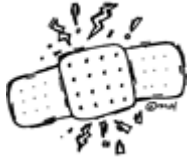
Grade 7

All above immunizations

Td booster (DTaP recommended)

2 Varicella or physician documentation of disease **

**New Department of Public Health requirements for the 2011 -2012 school year **



Injuries At School

Every injury presented in the health office is assessed. In minor cases such as bumps, scrapes etc. the injury is treated and the student returns to the classroom.

Parents will be contacted at the discretion of the school nurse depending on the severity of the injury.

Serious injuries are assessed, immediate first aid given, student is stabilized and entered into the Emergency Medical System (911) followed by parent contact.

Illness At School

The school environment can be an excellent medium for the rapid spread of illness. Any child assessed in the Health Office will be dismissed with the following symptoms:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Temperature 100 or above
- Suspected or confirmed communicable disease
- Other symptoms upon discussion with parent/guardian

When Should You Keep Your Child Home?

You, as the parent, are the best judge of whether to send your child to school or keep them home. A sick child cannot learn and has the potential to be exposed to even more germs from school.

Your child should be kept home from school if they have:

- A communicable disease
- Fever of 100 or more within the last twenty-four hours. Your child should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Vomiting/ diarrhea within the last twenty-four hours.
- Pain that requires the use of narcotic medication.
- An upper respiratory illness with significant coughing and/or nasal discharge.

Absences and Return to School

Your child may return to school after an absence when:

- they have been on an antibiotic for twenty-four hours
- no vomiting/diarrhea for twenty-four hours
- fever free for twenty-four hours
- all chicken pox lesions have crusted over and evaluated by the school nurse
- head assessment by the school nurse after head lice treatment

A note from your physician is required if your child has been absent for five or more consecutive school days. The School Nurse is available to facilitate transition back into the classroom and coordinate planning for medications, treatments and equipment if needed.

When Should You Call The School Nurse?

The School Nurse is always available for consultation. Don't hesitate to call for any question or concerns and specifically for the following reasons:

- New medication or change in current medication
- New medical diagnosis or a change in health status
- Serious illness, injury or hospitalization
- Fracture, sprain, cast or sutures
- Diagnosis of a contagious disease such as strep throat, conjunctivitis, pertussis (whooping cough), chicken pox, flu, head lice
- Changes within the family that may impact the student while at school



Physical Education

All children are required to participate in physical education. Active participation is important for students to achieve the benefits of the program. It is understood that in some cases it would be harmful for your child to be an active participant. Teachers do not make any decisions regarding participation in Physical Education. Exclusion from one physical education class may be done at the discretion of the school nurse. All inquiries should be directed to the nurse at your child's school

- A parent note is required and will excuse a child from Physical Education for a maximum of one week.
- For a longer exclusion, a physician's note is required stating when the student may return to PE class.
- Any injury that requires a cast, crutches, ace wrap, sling or splint will automatically exclude a child from PE class. This includes any cast, splint etc. applied by the parent.
- Participation in physical education can resume with a note from the physician.

Children With Special Health Care Needs

If a child has asthma, allergies, diabetes, seizures, attention deficit disorder, or any other condition requiring special health care services in the school and/or is assisted with medical technology, etc., it is vital that the parent/guardian meet with the school nurse and develop an Individual Health Care Plan prior to school entry. Physician's orders for care in the school will need to be shared with the school nurse. For complex care requiring a team approach, a team meeting before school entry is recommended with the goal that services are in place prior to the start of school so the child is ready to learn.

Emergency Planning

Medway Public Schools require parents/guardians to complete emergency contact information every year. This is vital information that should be updated whenever changes in contact information occur.

There is the potential for many emergency circumstances. It is imperative that we be able to contact you or your designee at all times.



Nurse  Notes