

HEALTH SERVICES

Portland School Health Services exist for the prevention, identification, observation and management of health problems in the school setting. The school nurse, in cooperation with the School Medical Advisor, other health professionals, educators and school personnel, provides a wide range of health care services designed to promote and protect the student's optimal health status. Students and parents/guardians are urged to consult the school nurse with any questions or concerns related to issues of health, development, disease or disability, physical or emotional. Confidentiality is always protected. If a medical condition or religious belief contradicts any portion of the school health program, please speak with the school nurse. Reference policies 5141 and 5141.21, adopted 9/2/97.

Health Update

Please inform the school nurse of significant changes in your child's health status that occur over each summer and during the year, such as:

Need for eyeglasses	Illness/Surgery/Operation
Ear Tubes	Medication changes
Family Crisis	

Please also call the school nurse whenever your child is home with a communicable disease (such as strep, chicken pox, lice, scabies, impetigo, ringworm, and pink eye) so that the spread of disease can be limited.

Health Assessments

Health Assessments are required for: 1) students entering school for the first time (preschool and kindergarten). The assessment must be completed within twelve (12) months prior to school entry. 2) Students in grades 6 and 10 are also required to have a Health Assessment. The assessment is to be completed within the calendar year January 1 (prior to entering 6th and 10th grade) and completed no later than December 31 (following entry into 6th and 10th grade). 3) Any student transferring from another school system must have documentation that the state mandated Health Assessments were performed as required. Exception: if a student is eligible for a free or reduced price school lunch or milk, the parents may request that the health assessment be provided in school. Such requests must be made by October 1 annually.

Immunizations

Students entering school for the first time are required by state law to have the following immunization.

DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus) - one dose must have been administered on or after the fourth birthday.

Polio - one dose must have been administered on or after the fourth birthday.

MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) - 2 doses

HIB (hemophilus influenza type B)

HepB (hepatitis type B) - 3 doses

All students born after December 31, 1996 must show proof of immunity to the Varicella (chicken pox) disease for entry into preschool and kindergarten.

Students entering 7th grade must show that they have received one dose of Hepatitis B vaccine. Students entering 8th grade must show that they have completed the series of three Hepatitis B vaccines. All students must show proof of immunity to varicella (chicken pox) for entry into 7th grade.

Children not in compliance with the law may not attend school.

Screenings

The school nurse will conduct the following screening examinations of children in school:

Vision: Grades K-6,9

Hearing: Grades K-3,5,8

Posture: Grades 5-9

Children in other grades may also be screened upon request. Parents/guardians will be informed by the school nurse if the screening results indicate a need for additional assessment by the child's physician.

Illness

If a child becomes ill during the school day, the school nurse will assess the child and determine the best course of action. The sick child who cannot participate in class after a short rest must receive transportation and supervision outside of school as arranged by the parent or guardian. Parent(s)/guardian(s) must be available to school personnel at all times in case a child becomes ill or injured at school. Alternate persons listed for emergency purposes must be able to provide transportation home from school. The child who is sick before school begins for the day should remain home in order to foster recovery and avert exposure of their illness to others. If you have any questions about when to keep a child home for illness, please consult your school nurse.

Medication

Medication may be administered during school hours only if:

Its therapeutic effectiveness depends upon administration during school hours.

The authorization form provided by school personnel is completed by a physician or dentist and parent/guardian for each child.

It is supplied in the original pharmacy container with the original pharmacy label stating: a) the child's full name; b) name, strength, and dosage of the medication; c) when to administer the medication; d) date; e) number of prescription; f) medication is not to exceed a 45 school day supply.

Medication is delivered by a responsible adult to the school nurse or principal.

State regulations require that a medication supply be removed from the school by the last day of school or the medication will be destroyed.

A new authorization form is required as well as a new supply of medication at the start of each school year, even if there is no change in the physician's treatment of the child.