

Health

Medication Administration

Whenever possible, medication should be given at home either before or after school hours. This minimizes the time a student must be away from the classroom. We understand, however, that there are times when it is necessary for students to take medication at school.

Medications fall under two categories: *prescription and non-prescription*. Both types require a medication permission form to be filled out with the following information before medication can be administered at school in accordance with school board policy:

- First and last name of student
- Name of medication to be given
- Dosage, route and time to be given
- Date
- Physician signature (for prescription medications only)
- Parent signature

Medication forms are available in the school office or on the school website.

Important Information Regarding Medications:

*All medications must be brought into school in the original container and stored in the school office. Prescription medications must be brought into school in a current pharmacy-labeled container. If there is a change in the prescription or if the prescription is discontinued, documentation from the physician is required. Non-prescription medications including pain relievers, topical medications, eye drops and cough drops must also be brought into school and stored in the office with the appropriate paperwork.

*According to district policy and state guidelines, students are allowed to carry and self-administer certain medications at school, such as inhalers. Written permission from the parent or guardian and physician is required. Please contact the district nurse for more information.

*Medication cannot be stored in the school office over the summer months. It should be picked up at the end of the school year by a parent or guardian.

Injury

Emergency procedures are in place for injury and illness that occur during school hours. Whenever an injury occurs at school that is serious enough to require the attention of a health care provider, the parent or guardian will be contacted immediately to pick up the student from school. If the parent cannot be reached, the individuals listed on the student's emergency card will be contacted. In the event of a life-threatening emergency, the emergency medical service will be contacted first.

Student Illness and Absence

In the event that a student becomes ill and needs to be sent home during school hours, the parent or guardian will be contacted. Saline Area Schools follows the guidelines established by the Washtenaw County Health Department when making a decision to send a student home due to illness. This information can be accessed at <http://publichealth.eWashtenaw.org> under the fact sheet section.

In general, students considered well enough to attend school are expected to participate in all school activities including outdoor recess. If a student requires special accommodations or has limitations due to illness or injury that prohibit them from participating in regular classroom and/or physical education activities, a physician's note outlining the restrictions and timeline for the restrictions is required. You can obtain a *Return to School Form* from the school website which offers a convenient way for your physician to document this information. Parents may send a note after an illness to excuse a child from recess for one to three days. After this time frame, a doctor's documentation is required.

In addition, students absent from school are expected not to participate in extracurricular activities that day. This helps prevent the spread of illness to others.

Communicable Disease

As a school community we try to minimize the spread of communicable disease by encouraging frequent hand washing and through the regular cleaning of community surfaces. Parents can also help by keeping students home if they exhibit the following symptoms:

- **Fever**: Children should be kept home from school if they have a temperature of 100 degrees F or above (taken orally), 101 F degrees or above (taken by ear), or 99 degrees F or above (taken under the arm). ***Children should not return to school until they have been fever-free, without medication, for at least 24 hours.***
- **Vomiting**: Children should not return to school until 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting.
- **Diarrhea**: If a child has had 2 or more episodes of diarrhea within a 24-hour period, they should stay home for at least 24 hours after the last episode of loose stools.
- **Rash**: Any illness involving a rash should be evaluated by a health care professional.
- **Ear or Eye Discharge**: This could be a sign of a bacterial infection and should be evaluated by a health care professional.
- **Severe Sore Throat**: This may indicate strep throat and should be evaluated by a health care professional.
- **Flu-like Symptoms**: Sudden onset of fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, runny nose, mild sore throat and severe cough. ***Children should not return to school until they have been fever-free, without medication, for at least 24 hours.***

Any student exhibiting any of these symptoms will be sent home based on the guidelines established by the Washtenaw County Public Health Department.

Parents are required to report illness to the school office when a child is absent. Please report symptoms, especially respiratory concerns, fever and vomiting as well as any confirmed diagnosis (Strep throat, pink eye, impetigo, etc.) to the office. This helps us know when to notify other families about illness and also helps us track illness trends at school.

The following chart is a guideline for some common childhood illnesses and infections.

Illness	Exclusion Recommendations
Chickenpox (Varicella)	Until all lesions are crusted over and until at least 6 days after appearance of first lesion
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	Until there is no drainage from eye and after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment
Fifth Disease	May return to school when feeling better
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease	Until recovered from acute illness and fever-free for 24 hours
Impetigo	Minimum of 24 hours of antibiotic and until lesions are dry.
Mononucleosis	Upon recommendation of health care provider
Ringworm	Minimum of 24 hours of treatment, area should be covered
Scabies	May return upon completion of health care provider prescribed treatment
Scarlet Fever	May return if feeling better and after 24 hours minimum of antibiotic treatment
Strep Throat	May return if feeling better and after 24 hours minimum of antibiotic treatment
Pediculosis (Head Lice)	May return to school after treatment and when lice-free, documentation of treatment required, refer to Board Policy #8515

For more information on illnesses not listed or for health related questions not addressed in the handbook, please contact Karan Hervey, District Nurse, at 429-8000, extension 3211.