

ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS

Oral Medication in Schools

If under exceptional circumstances a child is required to take oral medication during school hours and the parent cannot be at school to administer the medication, the school nurse or principal's designee trained in administration or medication will administer the medication in compliance with the regulations that follow:

- A. Written instructions signed by a physician will be required and must include:
 1. Child's name
 2. Name of medication
 3. Time to be administered
 4. Dosage
 5. Possible side effects
 6. Termination date for administering the medication
 7. Special storage instructionsA medical form for this purpose may be obtained from each school's office.
- B. Over the counter medications (example: Tylenol, Advil, aspirin) must be prescribed by the physician or licensed health care provider to be given on an "as needed" basis for chronic illness. Over the counter medication will not be given for acute illnesses. Medical forms signed by the physician are also required for over the counter medications.
- C. The medication must be brought to school in a container labeled by the pharmacist according to the prescription.
- D. Students will not be permitted to carry medication to and from school. All medication that will be administered at school must be brought to the school office by the parent/guardian of the student. When the medication is completed, out-of-date, or at the end of the school year, parents will be advised in writing to pick up any unused medicine. Medications not picked up by parents (by the last day of school) will be destroyed.

Self Administered Medications

Students that have conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and hypersensitivity to bee stings/insects may require self-administration of medications. The student may self medicate when the following criteria are met:

- A. Written consent by parents on the medical form
- B. Written instructions signed by a physician are also included on the medical form
- C. Certain medications (i.e., inhalers) may be kept on the student's person if the physician deems necessary and provides instructions. This must be discussed with and approved by the school's principal and school nurse.
- D. The student must be trained in the procedure to manage his/her condition.

School's Responsibility

The school nurse or principal's designee trained in the administration of medication will:

1. Inform appropriate school personnel of the medication.
2. Keep a record of the administration of medication.
3. Keep medication in a locked cabinet.
4. Return unused medication to the parent/guardian only.

The school system retains the discretion to reject requests for administration of medication in the schools.

Parent's Responsibilities

The parents of the child must assume responsibility for having the medication form properly completed and returned to the school. The parents of the child must assume responsibility for informing the school of a change in the child's health or change in medication.

Illness

Many parents are concerned about when to keep children who have been ill home from school. These are a few of the most common symptoms parents should consider when determining to keep a child at home.

- Your child should stay at home if he/she has a fever of 100 degrees (orally) or more and should remain home for about 24 hours after the fever has gone.
- Your child should stay home if he/she has vomited or has diarrhea (more than 1 loose stool) within 2 hours prior to the start of school. (Be alert of stress induced vomiting – some children throw up when worried about something.)
- Conjunctivitis (pinkeye) can be very contagious. If the white of your child's eye is red and has any type of drainage, you should keep your child at home.
- Other conditions that merit keeping your child home include, but are not limited to: head lice, chicken pox, and strep throat.

Remember that a doctor's note must accompany any medications that are to be given during school hours. We appreciate your help in preventing the spread of disease in school and in limiting the number of days children miss due to illness.