



**SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES  
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS**

The following information pertains to New York State regulations and policies governing School Health Services.

The required immunizations for school attendance are:

Vaccines	Prekindergarten(Day Care, Head Start, Nursery or Pre-k)	Kindergarten	Grades 1 through 5	Grade 6	<b>Grades 7 through 12</b>
Diphtheria and Tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine (DTaP/DTP/Tdap) <sup>2</sup>	4 doses	4 to 5 doses	4 to 5 doses	3 doses	3 doses
Tetanus and Diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine booster (Tdap) <sup>3</sup> (Required only for students enrolling in grades 6-12 who have not previously received a Tdap at 7 years of age or older)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	1 dose	1 dose
Polio vaccine (IPV/OPV) <sup>4</sup>	3 doses	3 to 4 doses	3 doses	3 to 4 doses	3 doses
Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (MMR) <sup>5</sup>	1 dose	1 dose	2 doses 2 doses required by age 7	2 doses	2 doses
Hepatitis B vaccine <sup>6</sup>	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses
Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine <sup>7</sup>	1 dose	2 doses	1 dose	2 doses	1 dose
Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccine (Hib) <sup>8</sup>	1 to 4 doses	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine (PCV) <sup>9</sup>	1 to 4 doses	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### HEALTH APPRAISALS

Education Law (Section 903) and Regulations of the Commissioner of Education require physical examinations of children when they:

- Enter a school district for the first time
- Are in grades Pre-K or K, 2, 4, 7 and 10
- Participate in interscholastic sports
- Need working papers
- Are referred to the Committee on Special Education
- Require an appraisal deemed necessary by school authorities to determine an appropriate educational program for the individual

If a report of a child's examination is submitted from a primary health care provider, it must be signed by a physician, a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant working in collaboration with the physician. Submitted reports of examinations must describe the condition of the student when the examination was given and must state whether such student is in a fit condition of bodily health to permit his/her attendance.

The physical appraisal must be no more than twelve months prior to the commencement of the school year in which the examination is required.

### **DENTAL CERTIFICATES**

Amendments to Education Law (Section 903) and Regulations of the Commissioner of Education require school districts to request dental certificates for children when they enter school for the first time and in grades Pre-K or K, 2, 4, 7, and 10. Dental health certificates must contain a report of a comprehensive dental examination and be signed by a dentist licensed to practice in New York State.

### **MEDICATION**

School personnel are often asked to give medicine to children during school hours. Many medicines can be taken effectively outside school hours. If your doctor feels it is necessary for medication to be administered in school, contact the School Health Office to obtain a "Medication Permission" form. To administer medication to students in school the following steps must be taken for both prescription and over the counter medications.

1. Submit a written order to administer medication in school from your child's physician. The pharmacy label does not constitute a written order and cannot be used in lieu of a written order from a licensed physician. Faxed orders from licensed physicians are acceptable. Verbal permissions from the physician to administer medication are not acceptable.
2. Submit your written request that medication be administered to your child in school as ordered by his/her physician.
3. Deliver your child's medication directly to the Health Office in the original, properly labeled container.

Medications should not be transported daily to and from school. Parents/guardians should ask the pharmacist for two containers, one to remain at home and one at school. Medications must not be transported to school by students on school buses. This presents a danger to all students. Students may not carry medication on their person during the school day.

### **MEDICAL EXCUSE - PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to keep the school informed of any health condition that would affect their child's safety, school performance, or toleration of physical activity. If for any reason a child is unable to participate in the physical education program, the parent/guardian must provide appropriate documentation from the attending physician indicating the problem, the specific limitations and the duration of those limitations as soon as possible. Medical excuses from a parent must be followed up with a doctor's note by the next scheduled gym day. If a child is to be excused from the regular physical education program for more than two weeks, the parent/guardian must obtain information from the attending physician regarding the student's ability to participate in an adaptive physical education program.

### **HEALTH PROBLEMS**

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the school of any contagious diseases or unusual health problems that the child may have. In this way the school can plan for the child's safety and special needs in order to maximize the child's educational experience.

## **SCREENING**

Vision screening is provided for new entrants and students in grades K-3, 5, 7, and 10. Hearing screening is provided for new entrants and students in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7, and 10. Height, weight, and body mass index screening are conducted with new entrants and students in grades Pre-K or K, 2, 4, 7, and 10. Parents/Guardians will be notified ONLY if problems are identified.

## **BODY MASS INDEX (BMI) SURVEY**

Each year, a sample of schools in New York State are required to participate in a Department of Health survey to collect data on BMI and students' weight status category. Only summary information is included in the survey. No names or identifying information about individual students are shared. Parents/Guardians must notify the School Nurse in the school their child attends if they choose to have their child's BMI information excluded from the survey report.

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT**

In the event a child is sick or injured in school, it is essential that the school have telephone numbers where a parent or responsible adult can be contacted. If the emergency contacts should change during the school year, parents/guardians MUST notify the school immediately and provide accurate, working phone numbers where a responsible party may be reached.

## **HEALTH NEEDS**

The emotional as well as physical needs of each child are the concern of the School Health Services personnel. Parents/guardians should contact the School Nurse with information regarding the health needs of their child and to obtain information regarding available community health services that could respond to the needs of the child or family.