

# STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

To support students' health, safety, and academic success our district provides school health services in partnership with the Multnomah Education Service District (MESD).

To provide for your child's special medical or mental health needs (for example diabetes, seizures or school anxiety) it is **important to promptly tell** the school:

- About new and changing health problems that can cause learning or safety problems at school.
- If your child is undergoing treatments that affect the immune system.
- When your child has a chronic health need that requires specialized care at school.

## BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

If your child is enrolled in a "before or after school program" and needs medication/health assistance during these times, a separate supply of medication and a separate permission form from parent and/or doctor is needed. Consult with the program director regarding specific health and safety needs for your child in these programs.

## CONTAGIOUS CONDITIONS:

To decrease the spread of contagious conditions in schools:

- Tell the school if your child has a contagious disease such as chicken pox or pertussis (whooping cough)
- Do not send your child to school with a rash, fever, diarrhea or vomiting.
- To protect the health of students or other persons, certain diseases are reportable to the health department per law (OAR 333-18-000.) At such times, records and information may be disclosed to public health officials.

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

**The school must have a way to reach you** in an emergency. Tell the school immediately about changes in work and home addresses and phone numbers for both you and emergency contact persons.

## HEAD LICE

Parents are encouraged to check their children regularly for head lice. Students with live lice will be excluded from school and sent home with lice treatment information. The student will be readmitted to school after treatment and re-examination for live lice. Any student with nits only will be allowed in school and monitored for re-infestation of lice. Current evidence does not support classroom or school-wide screening as a measure for decreasing the incidence of head lice among school age children.

## HEALTH INFORMATION

- Health information may be shared with school personnel on a "need to know" basis when information about your child's health is necessary for school personnel to care for and respond to your child's needs and if this information is needed by the school team to develop an individualized education plan that appropriately considers the health needs of your child.
- By allowing release of your child's health information, you will ensure that your child will receive needed emergency health care should the need arise.
- When you do not authorize release of health information, it may limit the type of care your child is able to receive.
- Parents (and their eligible students) may generally access their own child's record and can request an amendment if they believe the record is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's rights of privacy.

## HEALTH SCREENINGS

Oregon Law says that vision and hearing screenings shall be done to help find children's health problems. The nurse oversees these screenings. The usual screening schedule is:

**Dental:** Grades Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 1, 3, 5, and 7

**Hearing:** Grades Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and 1

**Vision:** Grades Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 1, 3, 5, and 7

***If you do not want your child included in these screenings you must submit a written request to the school each school year. Screening results for dental, hearing and vision are all sent home to parents.***

## IMMUNIZATIONS AND OREGON LAW:

- To protect all children, every student must have a current school immunization record or a medical or religious exemption at school. Students not in compliance with immunization requirements may not attend school and will be excluded on state mandated exclusion days (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in February).
- It is important to keep your child's school immunization record up-to-date. Check with your school's office if you need forms.
- Upon written request from parents/guardians for release of information (form available at <http://www.mesd.k12.or.us/shs/hss/immunizations/immu1.pdf>), the MESD Immunization Program will provide vaccination dates to clinics as needed to assess immunization histories of their clients. These efforts increase protection of children against vaccine-preventable diseases and promote efforts by parents and schools to comply with school mandated immunization requirements.

## SCHOOL NURSES

The School Nurse is a registered nurse (RN) and is a key person for keeping students safe and well. No appointments or special permission are needed for students to see the nurse. Students must follow the school's rules about having passes to go to the nurse. The hours of the school's nurse may vary. If the nurse is not available, staff trained in first aid can help children who become sick or injured at school.

The nurse will get necessary information (for example, a health history, medical diagnosis and treatment) to assist students with special medical and mental health needs at school. The nurse may use this information to train school staff how to help your child at school. In order to obtain this information, the nurse may:

- Talk with parents, students,
- Request that you sign a release of information form to discuss your child's health needs with the school staff and health care professionals
- Use questionnaires
- Look at health records
- Check out a body area (examples: listen to the heart, feel the skin, look in the ears)

The nurse may help teach about good health practices (examples: healthy eating, good hand washing, and social skills). You may call the school if you would like to meet with the nurse.

## SCHOOL HEALTH ASSISTANTS:

In addition to the School Nurse, some schools have a School Health Assistant (SHA) on site to assist students. The SHA is not a nurse, but works under the direction of the nurse. SHAs provide basic first aid, administer medication, process immunization records, assist with health screenings, and provide delegated health care.

## MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION AT SCHOOL

The school's nurse provides consultation about medication administration that must occur at school. **Only medication that is necessary to be given during the school day will be kept at school.** Remember to ask your medical provider if your child's medication can be given outside school hours. This is safer for your child and easier for you. By Oregon law, if medication must be given at school, you must:

- Provide written permission (forms are available at school). Any change to the medication will require the parent to update the medication form at the time of the change.
- Make sure all medication (prescription and over the counter) is in its original container and marked with the student's name. (Ask the pharmacist for an extra bottle for school when getting prescriptions.)
- **All medication must be delivered to school by the parent or responsible adult designated by the parent.** Students may not keep medications with them unless they are age-appropriate for the responsibility, have been identified as a self-manager, have written parent permission, and are cleared by the principal to do so.
- Make sure the school has an adequate supply of all medications required by your child.
- Pick up the medication when it is no longer needed at school. **All medication not picked up by the end of the year will be destroyed.**