

ITHACA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES

The School Nurse acts as a liaison between home, school and community. If there is a problem concerning a student's health, the family is encouraged to contact the Health Office.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

The Ithaca City School District follows New York State Education Law regarding physical exams. All new entrants and students in PreK, kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, 7th and 10th grades must have a physical examination done by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner. If you have questions or need help getting a physician for your child please call the school nurse at your child's school or the head nurse, Judy Hoffman, at 607-274-2127.

IMMUNIZATIONS

New York State Public Health Law, Section 2164, requires all school children be adequately immunized. Immunization records are due within 14 days of the child's first day of school or 30 days if entering from another state or out of the country.

Immunizations should be obtained from your child's physician. For children who do not currently have a physician, the Tompkins County Health Department will provide immunizations on a sliding fee scale basis. Call the Health Department at, 274-6616 for more information or to make an appointment.

EXCEPTIONS

- A certificate signed by a physician licensed in New York State stating the specific reason or condition why immunization(s) are detrimental to the child's health. Medical exemptions need to be renewed annually.
- A written and notarized statement signed by the child's parent/guardian that they hold religious beliefs contrary to the practice of immunization. The statement must describe the beliefs in sufficient detail to permit the school to determine that (a) the beliefs are religious in nature (not health or philosophical), and (b) the beliefs are sincerely and genuinely held.

*Students who are exempt from immunizations will be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of disease for which the student is not immunized.

DENTAL CERTIFICATE

Dental Certificates are requested for new entrants and for students in PreK, Kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, 7th and 10th grades.

LEAD TESTING

Date and results of Lead Screening are needed for students enrolled in PreK.

MEDICATION

The Ithaca City School District will provide for the administration of medication to those children who have medical conditions requiring medications be administered during the school day. In order to do so safely, the following procedures have been established to protect students and staff.

Parents or guardians requesting medication be administered to their child in school must meet with the school nurse and provide the following:

- Completed medication form signed by a licensed health care provider
- Signed request by the parent/guardian requesting the medication be administered as instructed by the licensed health care provider
- Medication in its original labeled container (must match information on Medication order)
- Signature acknowledging date medication is received along with name, form and amount of medication
- Discuss with school nurse arrangements for student to take medication at school or during school activities
- Long term medications must be renewed annually

When it is necessary for students to have medication (prescription or over-the-counter) during school hours, the parent or guardian must bring the medication to school and give it directly to the school nurse.

Students can self-administer medication during the school day or at sporting events, if they are developmentally ready and have a medication order to self-administer signed by the parent/guardian and medical provider. The form must be renewed annually and forwarded to the school nurse for approval.

EMERGENCY FIRST AID AND ILLNESS

New York State School Law requires school districts to provide a health services program which includes plans to respond to illnesses and emergencies.

In order to reduce the spread of communicable illnesses in school, school nurses work closely with students and their families to reduce the spread of illnesses at school and ensure that students get appropriate health care. The principal and/or school health personnel must be able to contact parent/guardian in case your child has an accident or illness in school. Therefore, it is essential that parents/guardians provide contact information and the names of two relatives, friends, neighbors or co-workers who can act for the parent/guardian in case of emergency.

When your child is ill, it is helpful for you to report his/her diagnosis to the school nurse. If you have a question about whether your child can be in school, please contact the school nurse. In the event of serious illness or injury the School Nurse can help coordinate your child's educational needs and plan for a safe and successful re-entry into school.

SCREENING PROCEDURES PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL NURSE

HEARING

Each new entrant student and each Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 10th grades receives a sweep check hearing test. Children whose sweep test results are below normal are given a more complete screening. If any hearing loss is detected, the parent/guardian is notified. It is important that the child to be evaluated by their physician to obtain early treatment or determine the need for modification in the school program.

VISION

Each new entrant student and each Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th & 10th graders receive vision screening. Retesting can be done whenever there is indication or parent/guardian, doctor or teacher makes a request. Poor vision can be a deterrent to learning and there are visual impairments that can only be corrected at an early age; therefore, the State of New York

recommends that all children have a vision examination before entering school. Parents/guardians will be notified of any abnormal findings.

SCOLIOSIS

Scoliosis is an abnormal curvature of the spine. All students in 5th through 9th grade are screened for scoliosis. The school clinician will determine if a student should be referred for further examination.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is an important part of the school program as required by law. A written statement from the family physician is required for prolonged exclusion from physical education. This should include the reason and, if possible, the length of time for exclusion. The student must have an order from the physician stating they are medically cleared and can return to physical education.

If a student needs limited activity they can receive an adapted physical education program. The student should get a medical order from their physician stating what physical activity they can participate in.

For any questions regarding Health Services please contact your child's school nurse or the head nurse, Judy Hoffman at 607-274-2127 or jhoffman@icsd.k12.ny.us

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