



# Health Information Letter

## HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT Waynesville R-VI School District

<http://waynesville.k12.mo.us/>

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Below are health policies regulated by the Waynesville R-VI School District and duties of the school nurse.

### **Immunizations:**

Students must meet the minimum immunization requirements for children attending public schools as mandated by Missouri State Law (Section 167.181, RSMo). It is unlawful for a child to attend school without written documentation on file. Three types of exemptions are available:

- 1) Medical exemption – must be certified by a licensed physician.
- 2) Religious exemption – must be signed by the custodial parent.
- 3) Military exemption – Students residing in the household of a military active duty member who cannot provide evidence of immunizations required under Missouri law shall be enrolled and given 30 days to obtain the required immunizations or, if the immunization is a series, to begin the series.

*Note: Immunizations for nonmilitary families can be obtained from the Pulaski County Health Department by or a doctor of your choice. Military dependents may receive immunizations by contacting the Immunization Clinic at the General Leonard Wood Army Hospital.*

Missouri statutes section 210.003.1, states that a parent or guardian may request notice of whether there are children currently enrolled in or attending the facility, for whom an immunization exemption has been filed, at all public, private, and parochial day care centers, preschools, and nursery schools.

### **Prescription Medications:**

Prescription medications should be given at home when possible. Students may not carry prescription medications except inhalers or EpiPens and only then with proper written authorization from the physician and parent. All prescription medication will be locked in the nurse's office and must be in the original container with the following:

1. student's name
2. doctor's name
3. name of medication
4. dosage, time, and route of administration

Short-term prescription medications may be given at school by written request of the parent. The prescription label will be considered an equivalent to the physician's order for short-term medications only. The medication must be in the original prescription bottle and meet the guidelines listed above.

Long-term medications (greater than 10 days) require a medication authorization form completed by the parent. Prescriptions that require the student to carry medications themselves will require a physician's signature. If the medication is given for an extended period of time, a 30-day supply must be delivered to the nurse's office by the parent/guardian unless prior arrangements have been made with school administration. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to keep track of refills.

School personnel can't knowingly administer prescription drugs in an amount exceeding the recommended daily dosage listed in the Physician's Desk Reference (PDR) or other recognized medical or pharmaceutical text.

*Note: The school will not administer medications unless the school's student medication policy is followed. If your child is severely allergic to bee stings, it is requested a bee sting kit be kept at school. A medication authorization form needs to be completed by the parent, signed by a physician, and kept on file in the nurse's office. An emergency action plan should be on file in the nurse's office.*

**Non-Prescription Medications:**

Non-prescription medications should not be carried by the student and be given at home when possible. Administration of non-prescription medications for colds, coughs, headaches, pain, etc. requires the written consent and permission of the parent/guardian's and updated annually. Medication must be brought to school by the parent/guardian in the original container and will be locked in the nurse's office. All non-prescription medication must be FDA approved and administered according to the specific directions on the manufacturer's label.

**Communicable Diseases:**

It is unlawful for any child to attend a public school while afflicted with any contagious or infectious disease, or while liable to transmit such disease after having been exposed. Communicable diseases include but are not limited to: impetigo, conjunctivitis (i.e. pink eye), scabies, ringworm, etc. If a student is suspected of having any contagious condition, the student will be sent home with a form from the nurse's office. A physician must send a statement to the school verifying the student was seen by a physician and is being treated or is no longer contagious.

**Head Lice**

If a student has live head lice, the student will be sent home & cannot return to school for 24 hours after discovery of the head lice to allow for treatment. The parent/guardian will be instructed on treatment options. When the student returns to school, the student will be examined by the school nurse. If live head lice are found for a second time, the parent/guardian will be re-instructed concerning treatment. The student will be excluded from school for 24 hours for additional treatment. This process will continue until the student is free of live head lice.

**Screenings:**

Vision and hearing screening are done annually for students in kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Vision or hearing screening is also completed when requested by a parent or through a teacher referral process.

Scoliosis screenings (curvature of the spine) are completed in grades 6-8. If problems are noted, the school nurse will contact the parents by mail or a referral letter sent home with the student.

**Illness and Emergencies:**

The nurse is not a doctor and cannot diagnose or order treatments. The health room is not equipped for sick children to remain in the nurse's office for more than one hour. It is very important, especially in emergency situations, for the school to have current home, work, and emergency phone numbers. If your child has a particular health problem, please send all information concerning diagnosis and treatment to the school nurse. It is important that health records of every student are updated and the school staff is informed of your child's health problem.

*Note: Students with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, or vomiting, will be sent home. Students must remain home for a period of 24 hours without fever or vomiting (and without medication) before returning to school. Release of the student from school for vomiting is the responsibility of the school nurse or trained school staff.*

**Physicals:**

Students participating in sports must have a current annual physical prior to the ensuing school year (dated after February 1). Physicals must be on file with the nurse, signed by the student, parent/guardian, and physician prior to a sport activity to include the first day of practice.

**Excuses from Physical Education Class:**

A student may be excused from physical education class for one day with a written note from the parent. A written statement from a physician is required when a student needs to be excused for two or more days. The following information should be included on the exclusion statement:

- 1) Reason for exclusion (i.e., fractured wrist)
- 2) Type of activities student may or may not participate in during PE classes
- 3) Number of day's student will be excluded from class or specific activities

Unfortunately, this is a very brief note and cannot cover all aspects. Please feel free to call your school nurse if you have any questions.