



WAYNESVILLE R-VI SCHOOLS  
Health Information

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to inform you of some health policies regulated by the Waynesville R-VI School District and the duties of the school nurse.

**IMMUNIZATIONS:** Every student is required by Missouri law (section 167.181, RSMo) to have written documentation of immunizations in his/her school record. It is unlawful for a child to attend school unless this documentation is on file. Two types of exemptions are available:

- 1) Medical exemption – must be certified by a licensed physician and
- 2) Religious exemption – must be signed by the custodial parent. Waynesville Schools require that all students have received the minimum immunization requirements for children attending public schools as mandated by Missouri State Law.
- 3) Military exemption – Students who are in the household of an active duty member of the military and who cannot provide evidence of having received immunizations required under Missouri law shall be immediately 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 calling 1-573-736-2217 or a doctor of your choice. Military dependents may receive immunizations by contacting the Immunization Clinic at the General Leonard Wood Army Hospital (596-1768).

**PHYSICALS:** Students participating in sports must have a physical each school year and completed after February 1 prior to the ensuing school year. Physicals must be on file with the nurse, signed by the student, parent/guardian, and physician before a sport activity, to include the first day of practice.

**EXCUSES FROM PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES:** A student may be excused from physical education class for ONE (1) 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.

**MEDICATIONS:** **Medications should be given at home when possible.** If this is not possible, a medication authorization form **MUST** be completed by a physician and signed by a parent for all medications that will be given for long-term periods (greater than 10 days). **Students may not carry medication except inhalers or EpiPens when authorized in writing from the physician and parent.** All other medications will be locked in the nurse's office. **Medication must be in the original container with student's name; doctor's name; name of medication; and dosage, time, and route of administration.** Medication authorization forms are available in the nurse's office, local physicians' offices (Waynesville/St. Robert), and at clinics at Fort Leonard Wood Hospital. If the medication is being given for an indefinite period of time, a 30-day supply should be provided to the nurse's office (i.e. Ritalin). Medications should be delivered to the nurse's office by the parent/guardian unless prior arrangements have been made with school administration. (Keeping track of refills is the responsibility of the parent/guardian). Short-term prescription medications may be given at school upon receipt of medication and written request of the parent, provided the medication is brought to school in a prescription bottle and the above guidelines listed in bold print have been met. The prescription label will be considered an equivalent of the physician's order for short-term medications only. The school personnel cannot 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.

**NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS:** Medications should be given at home when possible. Over-the-counter medications for colds, coughs, headaches, pain, etc., may be given if written permission from the legal guardian is on file and updated annually in the nurse's office. Medication must be brought to school in the original container by the parent/guardian and will be locked in the nurse's office. Administration of over-the-counter medications does not require a prescription as long as school personnel administer the medication according to the specific directions outlined on the manufacturer's label and administer only those medications approved by the FDA. Medications in envelopes, plastic wraps, lunch boxes, etc., should not be brought to school. **No medications should be carried by a student** except an inhaler or an EpiPen which has been authorized in writing on the medical authorization form by the physician and parent. It is recommended that an emergency action plan also be on file.

*Note:* If your child is severely allergic to bee stings, a bee sting kit is requested to 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. **The school will not administer medications unless the school's student medication policy is followed.**

**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: head lice, 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 that the student was seen by a physician and is being treated or is no longer contagious.

*Note:* The Waynesville R-VI School District requires that students who have been sent home due to possible infestation of head lice must not return to school until proof of shampooing for lice with an approved lice shampoo has occurred and ALL NITS (lice eggs) have been removed from the hair. Nit combs are available at local pharmacies in Waynesville/St. Robert to assist in nit removal. Students returning to school must be cleared through the nurse's office before readmission is allowed. Parents are requested to bring students to the school nurse's office for this screening and to present to the nurse proof that approved medical treatment has occurred. A physician's statement is not necessary for 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>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Middle school Scoliosis screenings (curvature of the spine) are done in grades 6-8. If problems are noted, the school nurse will contact the parents by mail or send a referral home with the student. Vision or hearing screening is also completed when requested by a parent or through a teacher referral process.

Beginning July 1, 2008, every child enrolling in kindergarten or first grade in a public elementary school in this State shall receive one comprehensive vision examination performed by a state licensed optometrist or physician. Evidence of the examination shall be submitted to the school no later than January first of the first year in which the student is enrolled at the school.

**ILLNESS AND EMERGENCIES:** The nurse is not a doctor and cannot diagnose or order treatments. The health room is not equipped to let a sick child remain for more than one hour. It is very important that the nurse have current phone numbers where the parent can be reached, especially in emergency situations. Please send updated home, work and emergency phone numbers. If your child has a particular health problem, please send all information available 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:* If a student has a temperature of 100 degrees or more or is vomiting, the student will be sent home. He/She 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.

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.