



Medication Procedures for Cullman County Schools

- All medications must be brought to school by an adult (not necessarily the parent). Medications should not be transported on a Cullman County school bus or brought to school by a student.
- In the event a student brings medication to school, the parent/guardian will be contacted, informed of medication guidelines for Cullman County Schools, and will be required to come to school to administer the medication. No medication will be administered without a completed Prescriber/Parent Authorization. Medication will not be sent home with the student. It must be picked up by the parent/guardian or another responsible adult. If not picked up within 3 days, the medication will be disposed of following state guidelines.
- All prescription medications should be received in the original bottle specific to that medication, child, and circumstances. All over-the-counter (OTC) medications should be received in an unopened, original bottle. Siblings may share a bottle of OTC medication as long as it is age appropriate for each child.
- Pharmacy Board guidelines require that no medications will be bought or received for the general student population. All medication must be provided by the parent/guardian specifically for his/her own children.
- All medications will be counted by the nurse or unlicensed medication assistant and the person bringing in the medication and both should sign the appropriate form.
- No medication will be given without written parental consent. Verbal consent will not be accepted. Parent/guardian should specify dosages, times, and circumstances to be given. However, if any of the above is deemed inappropriate or differs with label directions, the nurse may make adjustments based on nursing judgment (ex. Parent specifies too high a dosage for the child's weight or age). Parent's/guardian's directions must be specific as to symptoms (if Advil is to be given for menstrual pain, it can only be given for that reason, not headache or fever). The nurse/medication assistant should check the consent for wording (ex. give for fever, headache, or mild discomfort).
- In extreme instances, prescription medication may be given with a parent signature only and a valid, current prescription label for no more than 48 hours to give the parent time to obtain a signed Parent/Provider Authorization from the physician. After this time, the parent/guardian must obtain a physician signature for the medication to continue to be given.
- Cullman County School nurses will accept verbal orders only from physicians, but a written notice should follow within 48 hours. Cullman County School Board Procedure will not allow changes to be made on the Parent/Prescriber Authorization regarding a prescription medication based solely on communication with the parent/ guardian or student.
- The school nurse or medication assistant will administer all medications with the exception of those specific medications (inhalers, EpiPen, insulin, etc) which can be safely administered by the student with written permission of both the physician and parent/guardian. Before any medication can be self-administered, the nurse is required to assess for competency and safety.
- Medication should be picked up by the parent/guardian or authorized adult at the end of the school year or if medication is discontinued. The parent/guardian will be notified of the presence of the remainder of medication and be given a specified length of time for it to be picked up. If not picked up by the specified time, the medication will be disposed of based on state and federal regulations.
- Food supplements, natural substances and herbs are not without potential harm, including life-threatening conditions. Herbal products and dietary supplements have not been subject to the approval of the Food and Drug administration (FDA) and in the United States, as in most countries, dosage and purity have not been regulated for these products. School personnel should not give any substance that could be considered as a drug or medication, including natural remedies, herbs, and nutritional supplements, without the explicit order of an authorized prescriber and parent authorization.