

Student Handbooks 2021-2022

School Health Services Section (Rev: 4/11/2021)

Health Services/Immunizations/Screenings/Medications/Food Allergies

A child's readiness to learn depends upon many factors, with overall health and well-being a major factor in the success of academic achievement. Understanding both the importance and responsibility to ensure each child's health, the State of South Carolina has laws and the CCSD Board of Education has policies, which mandate certain responsibilities upon both the parents and the schools.

Health Services Overview:

Our mission as CCSD nurses is to advocate, lead, promote, and care for the whole child through nursing excellence, integrity, and practice.

The vision of CCSD Health Services is to create and sustain a healthy school environment that promotes the Whole School-Whole Community-Whole Child Model.

The purpose of school health services is to ensure that all our students are healthy, safe and ready to learn. In summary, school health services:

- Contributes to the physical, mental, and social well-being of children
- Help children fully participate in school through prevention, health promotion, early identification and intervention of health problems, and care coordination

The school nurse functions as a vital part of the school team to bridge the gap between health, wellness and learning. Working with parents, health providers and other school staff, the school nurse provides services for students that promote optimal health for academic success.

Some of the functions of health services include, but not limited to:

- Health Screenings
- Screening Referrals
- Community Referrals
- Immunization Compliance
- Community Linkages
- Assessments
- Individual Health Plans
- Student Emergency Action Plans
- Wellness Initiatives
- Care Coordination
- Health Counseling/Education
- Special Medical Procedures
- Emergency Planning

- Student Advocacy
- Collaboration

Health Assessment (Physical)

We encourage pre-school and kindergarten students to have a pre-entry health/physical assessment by their primary care provider. This physical should be documented on Cherokee County School District *Physical Examination-Pre-School/Elementary form*. You can obtain this form from the school nurse or download the form from our web site. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide the school nurse with proof of a pre-entry health assessment/physical exam for entry into 3k, 4k or 5k.

Health Screenings

Each year, the school nurse performs preventive health screenings and assessments on your child, such as vision, hearing, dental, height, weight and body mass index, as recommended by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). The purpose of the screenings are to identify potential health problems that may hinder optimal learning. Your child may be referred to a physician for any problems identified during the screenings. The school nurse will inform you of the results of the screenings, as well as assist you in making further medical appointments, if needed.

If you elect for your child to opt out of the health screening, then you must notify the nurse to obtain a waiver for the health screening.

Dental Screenings by Dentist:

In addition to the dental screenings performed by the nurse, most schools offer dental screenings, on site, by a local dentist once per year. Typically, this screening is offered in either February or March. If you elect for your child to opt out of this dental screening, then you must indicate this on the *Parental Dental Permission form*.

Vision/Glasses Resources

Sight for Students is a VSP charity that provides free vision exams and glasses to low-income, uninsured children. The program operates nationally through a network of community partners who identify children in need and VSP network doctors who provide the eye-care services. Please contact your child's school nurse to learn more about this program and to determine if your child meets the eligibility requirements.

Lions Clubs are known throughout the world for their work to improve the lives of the visually impaired and prevent avoidable blindness. Our local Lions Clubs serve our community by assisting and offering assistance with obtaining glasses for children who do not have the ability to pay for services.

If you need assistance in locating an eye professional, need financial assistance with eye exam and/or prescriptive glasses, please contact your school nurse.

Illness & Injuries

Sick and injured students are sent to the Health/Nurse Clinic for assessment and evaluation by the nurse. If your child has a medical condition or illness that requires special treatments and/or nursing procedures, these will be managed in the health/nurse clinic. If your child is too ill or uncomfortable to remain in school, or if their fever is 100 degrees or more or if they have other presenting symptoms that necessitate school exclusion, the nurse will notify you by telephone to pick your child up from school.

In addition, other medical conditions/illnesses may require you to keep your child at home. The nurse will send a letter to all parents at the beginning of the school term informing you of when you need to keep your child at home due to certain medical/acute conditions as recommended by SC DHEC and/or district school health policies.

Detailed information about when to keep your child at home due to an illness, as well as reportable health conditions are updated annually by the SC DHEC. These updates are communicated to you in the *SC DHEC School Exclusion List*, which is sent home at the beginning of each school year.

Immunizations

Pursuant to Regulation 61-8, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has declared the following required vaccinations:

Each child will be immunized, according to grade level, (unless they have a religious or medical exemption on file), against poliomyelitis, measles, mumps and rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), varicella, hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hemophilic influenza, pneumococcal, as age appropriate, before being permitted to attend school.

Upon entry into any Cherokee County School, you must provide proof of immunizations for your child. All students are required to have a SC Certificate of Immunization Record on file-this record may be obtained from your child's doctor or the local health department. For more information regarding immunization information, contact your child's school nurse or www.scdhec.gov/Health/Vaccinations/

Students who do not comply with SC state requirements for immunizations may be excluded from school until they have met the SC state mandated requirements, unless a medical exemption or religious exemption is documented and on school file.

At the beginning of each new school year, the nurse will send out notification to each parent, any changes and/or required immunizations for that specific school year, as mandated by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control. The SC Department of Health and Environmental Control publishes and directs yearly school immunization requirements. These immunization requirements are communicated to the parent at the beginning of the school year and during spring pre-school registration.

Any questions regarding school immunizations, please direct to your school nurse.

Covid-19

As you are aware, the COVID-19 virus is ever changing. As the virus changes, so will our COVID-19 guidance documents and COVID-19 Response Plan, based on CDC/DHEC recommendations. Please check the district web site frequently through-out the school year for COVID-19 updates.

Student Health & Information Form:

It is very important that you complete and sign the *Health/Emergency Information form* on your child. All questions on the form are to be answered so that your child's health care needs can be met adequately during school hours. In addition, the school requires completion of other health related forms, especially if your child has a chronic health condition. If your child has a chronic health condition or a health condition that will require special nursing or medical procedures, the registered nurse will contact you to set up an appointment for the purposes of developing an Individualized Health Care Plan (IHP) and/or an Emergency Action Plan (EAP).

Individualized Health Care Plan (IHP)

An IHP may be developed by the Registered Nurse in order to provide for the needs or services of students with health problems. Normally, IHP's are for students who are medically fragile, who have chronic health conditions and/or who require complex health services on a daily basis, and for those students who have illnesses that could result in health crisis or emergency. The RN will use professional judgment to determine which students require an IHP. The IHP is planned and developed with input from the parent, student, and primary care provider. The IHP provides for a means for the school nurse to identify health needs and to document care given at school, as well as evaluate progress in achieving optimal student learning. Overall, the IHP assists in the management of your child's health needs during the school day.

If you, the parent decides that you do not want an Individualized Health Care plan completed for your child, then you need to contact the nurse and complete an *IHP Declination Form*.

Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

Some chronic conditions have the potential to develop into a medical emergency or health crisis, which requires an emergency action plan (EAP). The EAP stems directly from the IHP and provides all school staff, which has a need to know how to recognize and respond to a certain health crisis or emergency.

Medication Administration during the School Day

The following summarizes Cherokee County School District's policy on administration of medications during the school day. If you have any questions about medications, please direct these to the school nurse.

1. Only medication prescribed by the student's health care provider as being necessary to be taken by the student in the manner listed on this form may be brought to school.
2. Medications brought to school will be given to the student in accordance with the physician provisions listed on the medication form. ALL medications, (including prescriptive and over-the-counter) to be given at school MUST be in their original packaging/container and clearly labeled by the pharmacist and include:

- name of student
- name of prescribing provider
- name of pharmacy who dispensed medication
- dose of medication and amount to be taken
- method of administration
- time/frequency medication is to be given
- Date medication filled

Medications will not be given if they are not in their original-pharmacy labeled container/packaging.

3. A responsible adult must bring in all medications to be given at school, preferably the parent and/or guardian. No more than a 30-day supply of the medication will be brought and/or stored to school at one time.
4. The parent/guardian and the health care provider prescribing the medication must sign the *Authorization for Medication Administration by School Personnel form* prior to administering medications, both prescriptive and over-the-counter medications at school. The school district retains the discretion to deny requests for administering medications at school.
5. If a student is on more than one medication during school hours, a separate *Authorization for Medication Administration by School Personnel form* must be completed for each medication. Additionally, anytime a medication dose changes, a new *Authorization for Medication Administration by School Personnel form* must be completed by the physician to indicate the new dose of medication.
6. All medication brought to school will be counted with the person who brought the medication to school and the nurse; this count will be documented and signed by both individuals and will include at a minimum:
 - Date medication brought to school
 - Name/Dosage of Medication
 - Actual quantity of the medication brought to school
 - Signature(s) of school personnel and person who brought the medication in
7. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardian to notify the school of any changes to the original prescription and provide to the school a new authorization form, reflecting changes in the original order. Nurses cannot accept medication changes from a parent. A written physician authorization/order is required to request for change in the dosage, timing, or route of administration of a prescribed drug. Parents should also notify the school when the medication has been stopped or terminated by the physician.
8. Parents/guardian must pick up any unused medications within one week of termination of medication and by the last day of school. Unused medications will **not** be sent home with the student; any unused medications will be destroyed if not picked up by the specified time.

9. Medications will be stored according to state and federal regulations; the school will also comply with special instructions for storage, as recommended by the manufacturer and/or health care provider.
10. All information regarding medication and health status is confidential.
11. Self-administration of medications in schools refers to situations in which students carry their own medication, on their person, administer that medication to themselves during the school day, as ordered by their physician, and authorized by parent and school district. This authorization must be documented on the medication form. Not all medications are approved and appropriate for self-administration; the school district will determine which medications are appropriate for self-administration, but generally refer to such medications to treat chronic illnesses and may include such medications as asthma inhalers, epi-pens for severe & life threatening allergies, and insulin. Certain conditions should be met before students may self-administer a medication. These may include but not limited to:
 - Student is physically, mentally and behaviorally capable of assuming responsibility for self-administration and demonstrates a medical condition requiring the medication to be taken during the school day;
 - Student can and has demonstrated competency in performing self-administration of medication and
 - Safety factors are considered when determining approval for self-administration.

All self-administered medications must be in their original-pharmacy labeled containers and packaging.

12. Direct any questions that you may have regarding medication administration at school to the school nurse.

Severe Food Allergies

Severe food allergies is a growing concern in the United States and creates a significant challenge for children in school. Increasing numbers of children are diagnosed with life-threatening food allergies every year; approximately 1 in 13 children have some type of food allergy. That's about 2 students in every classroom. Children with food allergies can have life threatening reactions when exposed to even a very small amount of the food allergen, which can be fatal. To decrease the risk of life threatening allergies and to ensure that our students are safe, we ask that you please review the following guidelines for managing food allergies during the school day.

- We know that many parents like to celebrate birthdays and other special events with special treats. We encourage parents, whenever possible, to celebrate with non-food items such as pencils, themed erasers, or other trinkets, rather than food. If non-food items are not an option, then we ask that you please bring **packaged food items that contain a food ingredient label**, rather than home prepared items.
- If you are bringing in food for a party or special event that might not be allergen-free, please let your child's teacher or principal know in advance so that a safe alternative option can be provided for the classmate with food allergies.

- Please discuss food allergies with your child, specifically ask them *not* to share or trade food with any of their classmates during meal time.
- Avoid ordering food from restaurants to celebrate special events, because food allergies may be present, but unrecognized and some restaurants prepare their food with peanut oil.
- If your child has a food allergy, please ask for school menus for advanced meal planning, if necessary.

If your child has a food allergy, please contact your child's school nurse to discuss his/her plan of care during the school day.

Parent Forms

Most school health related forms can be downloaded from our website at:

https://www.cherokee1.org/departments/school_health_services