

CROMWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

STUDENTS

Health Assessments and Immunizations

Adopted: 6/12/01

Revised: 11/27/07

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of periodic health assessments according to state health regulations.

To determine the health status of students, facilitate the removal of handicaps to learning and find whether some special adaptation of the school program may be necessary, the Board of Education requires that students have health assessments.

The Board of Education adheres to those state laws and regulations that pertain to school immunizations and health assessments. It is the policy of the Board of Education to insure that all enrolled students are adequately immunized against communicable diseases. The Board may deny continued attendance in school to any student who fails to obtain the health assessments required under C.G.S. 10-206.

It is the responsibility of the Principal to insure that each student enrolled has been adequately immunized and has fulfilled the required health assessments. The school nurse shall check and document immunizations and health assessments on all students enrolling in school and to report the status to the school principal. The school nurse shall also contact parents or guardians to make them aware of immunizations and/or health assessments that are insufficient or not up-to-date. The school nurse will maintain the immunization and health assessment records of each student enrolled.

No record of any student's medical assessment may be open to the public.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-204 Vaccination
- 10-204a Required immunizations as amended by PA 96-244
- 10-204c Immunity from liability
- 10-205 Appointment of school medical advisor
- 10-206 Health assessments
- 10-206a Free health assessments
- 10-207 Duties of medical advisors
- 10-208 Exemption from examination or treatment
- 10-208a Physical activity of student rest cites; board to home notice
- 10-209 School nurses
- 10-212 School nurses
- 10-212a Administration of medicines by school personnel
- 10-214 Vision, audiometric and postural screening: When required; notification of parents re defects; record of results. (As amended by PA 96-229 An Act Concerning Scoliosis Screening)

Administrative Regulations

Health Assessments and Immunizations

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes 10-206, 10-204a, and 10-214, the following health assessment procedures are established for students in the district:

1. Proof of immunization shall be required prior to school entry. A 'school-aged child' also includes any student enrolled in an adult education program that leads to a high school diploma. This immunization verification is mandatory for all new school enrollees and must include complete documentation of those immunizations requiring a full series. A required immunization record includes:
 - a. For initial entry into school for kindergarten, regular and special education preschool programs:
 - 4 doses of DTP/DtaP vaccine (Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus). At least one dose is required to be administered on or after the 4th birthday for children entering school at 48 to 71 months of age. (Pertussis immunization shall not be required after a student's sixth birthday).
 - 3 doses of polio vaccine with at least one dose of polio vaccine administered on or after the 4th birthday and before school entry. (This then usually results in 4 doses in total.)
 - 2 doses of MMR vaccine (measles, mumps and rubella). One dose at 1 year of age or after and a second dose prior to school entry OR disease protection, confirmed in writing, by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practical registered nurse that the child has had a confirmed case of such disease based on specific blood testing conducted by a certified laboratory.
 - 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine (HBV) or confirmed blood test (for any individual born January 1, 1994 or later).
 - 1 dose of Hib (hemophilus influenza type b) is required of all school children who enter school prior to their fifth birthday or had a laboratory confirmed infection at age 24 months or older, confirmed in writing by a physician.
 - Varicella (chickenpox) Immunity
 - (1) All students born January 1, 1997 or later must show proof of immunity to varicella (chickenpox) for entry into licensed pre-school programs and kindergarten.
 - (2) Proof of immunity includes any of the following:
 - *Documentation of age appropriate immunizations considered to be one dose administered on or after the student's first birthday (if the student is less than 13 years old) or two doses administered at least 30 days apart for students whose initial vaccination is at 13 years of age or older.
 - *Serologic evidence of past infection.
 - *Statement signed and dated by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse indicating a child has already had chickenpox based on family and/or medical history. (Date of chickenpox illness not required.)
 - (3) All student are required to show proof of immunity (see above) to varicella for entry into 7th grade.

b. For entry into seventh (7th) grade:

- Proof of having received 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine.

In those instances at entry to seventh grade, where an individual has not received a second dose of measles contained vaccine, a second dose shall be given. If an individual has received no measles containing vaccines, the second dose shall be given no less than thirty (30) days after the first. (Students entering 7th grade must show proof of having received 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine)

- Proof of varicella (chickenpox) immunity.
 - (1) 2 doses, given at least 30 days apart for students whose initial vaccination is at 13 years of age and older, or
 - (2) Serologic evidence of past infection, or
 - (3) A statement signed and dated by a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse indicating that the child has already had chicken
- Proof of at least one dose of Hepatitis B vaccine or show proof of serologic evidence of infection with Hepatitis B.

NOTE: Students must show proof of 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine or serologic evidence of infection to enter eighth grade.

Immunization requirements are satisfied if a student:

- Presents verification of the above mentioned required immunizations;
- Presents a certificate from a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or a local health agency stating that initial immunizations have been administered to the child and additional immunizations are in process;
- Presents a certificate from a physician stating that in the opinion of the physician immunization is medically contraindicated because of the physical condition of the child;
- Presents a statement from the parents or guardian of the child that such immunization would be contrary to religious beliefs of the child;
- He/she has had a natural infection confirmed in writing by a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or laboratory.

Health assessment and health screening requirements are waived if the parent legal guardian of the student or the student (if he or she is an emancipated minor or is eighteen years of age or older) notifies the school personnel in writing that the parent, guardian or student objects on religious grounds. (CGS 10-204a)

Students failing to meet the above requirements shall not be allowed to attend school.

2. A physical examination including blood pressure, height, weight, hematocrit or hemoglobin, and screenings for hearing, vision, speech, gross dental and posture shall be required for all new school enrollees, and students in grade 6 and grade 10. This health assessment must be completed prior to new school entry. This assessment must be conducted between January 1 (prior to the student entering grades 6 and 10) and day 1 of their 7th (and 11th)] grade year. Failure of students to satisfy the above mentioned health assessment requirements shall result in exclusion from school. Parents of students in grade 6 or 10 shall be notified, in writing, of the requirement of a health assessment.

3. The assessment shall also include tests for tuberculosis for (a) all children entering school for the first time, (b) all foreign students, and (c) any student whose exposure at home or travel puts them at risk.
4. Health screenings shall be required for all students according to the following schedule:

Vision Screening

All students in grades K-9 will be screened annually using a Snellen chart, or equivalent screening, by the school nurse or school health aide. Additional vision screening will also be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student in question. Results will be recorded in the student's health record on forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the school nurse shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent or guardian of each pupil found to have any defect of vision or disease of the eyes, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease.

As necessary, special educational provisions shall be made for students with handicapping conditions.

Hearing Screening

All students will be screened annually for possible hearing impairments in grades K-9. Additional audiometric screening will be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student. Results will be recorded in the student's health record of forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the school nurse shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent or guardian of each pupil found to have any defect of hearing or disease of the ears, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease.

As necessary, special educational provisions shall be made for students with handicapping conditions.

Postural Screening

School nurses will screen all students in grades 5 through 9 inclusive for scoliosis or other postural problems. Additional postural screening will also be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student. Results will be recorded in the student's health record of forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the school nurse shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent or guardian of each pupil found to have any postural defect or problem, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease.

As necessary, special educational provisions shall be made for students with handicapping conditions.

5. Parents of students failing to meet standards of screening or deemed in need of further testing shall be notified by the school nurse.
6. Students eligible for free health assessments shall have them provided by the health services staff. Parents of these students choosing to have a health assessment conducted by medical personnel outside of the school system shall do so at no cost to the school system.
7. Health records shall be maintained in accordance with Policy #5125.
8. All candidates for all athletic teams shall be examined annually by the designated school physician at a time and place determined by the Director of Athletics and/or coach.

No candidate will be permitted to engage in either a practice or a contest unless this requirement has been met, and he or she has been declared medically fit for athletics.

An athlete need not be re-examined upon entering another sport unless the coach requests it.

If a student is injured, either in practice, a contest, or from an incident outside of school activities that requires him or her to forego either a practice session or contest, that student will not be permitted to return to athletic activity until the school physician examines the student and pronounces him/her medically fit for athletics.

9. Schools shall maintain files of Emergency Information cards for each pupil. If a child's injury requires immediate care, the parent or guardian will be called by telephone by the nurse, the building principal, or other personnel designated by the principal, and advised of the pupil's condition. When immediate medical or dental attention is indicated, and when parents or guardians cannot be reached, the student will be transported to the nearest hospital unless otherwise indicated on the student's Emergency Information card. In this event, the family physician/dentist and school district medical advisor will be notified of school district actions.

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