



## Health Services Information Letter

We wish to acquaint you with the health services available to the children of the Wissahickon School District. These services are intended to help maintain the health of each child at an ideal level in order that they may receive maximum benefit from the educational programs in our schools. With the help of the parents and the health care providers of the community, each young person should develop a maturity for their own health. By the time of high school graduation, they should understand the value of regular medical supervision. Our purpose is to work with you for the benefit of your child.

The medical department of the Wissahickon School District includes a consulting physician, certified school nurses, consulting dentist and other trained personnel. We are charged with responsibilities in a number of areas, each which has an effect on the well-being of your child.

The Pennsylvania School Health Law requires all students on entry to Wissahickon School District, 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades have a physical examination. Students entering Wissahickon School District as well as those entering the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades are also required to have a recent dental examination. Recent examinations means an exam done no earlier than one year prior to the school year it is required. We urge you to have these examinations performed by your child's own health care provider. **You can access the private physical examination, dental examination forms, and other nursing forms by going to the Wissahickon School District website link ([wsdweb.org](http://wsdweb.org)) and following this path: *Departments Tab – Health Services – Forms*. If necessary, you can also contact your school nurse to secure these forms.** The completed forms must be returned to the school nurse by October 15<sup>th</sup> or no later than two months after your child enters the Wissahickon School District.

Each child will have state mandated screening which includes growth (body mass index), and vision. Hearing is tested in kindergarten, grades 1,2,3,7 and 11 and those in special ungraded classes. We will report deficiencies to you in these tests. These reports should be rechecked by your family health care provider and returned to the school nurse when problems are corrected.

In order to protect our school children from serious and sometimes fatal diseases, the Pennsylvania Department of Health regulations require that all children entering school for the first time must be immunized. All the required doses of immunizations must be completed and verified by your health care provider prior to the student's entry into school. We ask your cooperation with your school nurse in the process of providing proper record of any immunization already completed and in securing those that are lacking. The only current exemptions to the regulations for immunizations are medical reasons and religious beliefs with proper documentation from your health care provider submitted to school. Please note that if your child is exempt from immunizations, he/she may be removed from school during a communicable disease outbreak.

Medical care in the schools is limited to first aid for accidents and illness until the parent can be contacted to take the child home or to their personal health care provider or hospital. Emergency information completed by you will give us the information to locate you when needed. It is important to keep this information updated each school year. School nurses are permitted by law to perform only those services written on the *Standing Orders* of the consulting school physician. *Do not expect the school nurse to diagnose or treat illnesses. This is the proper function of your family health care provider.*



Please encourage your child to practice good health habits that will contribute to growth, development, and well-being. These should include a balanced diet, adequate sleep, regular exercise and study. When there are signs of illness, your child should stay at home. A physician's excuse is necessary after an absence of three (3) days.

Please feel free to contact your school nurse if any questions arise.



## Guidelines for Administration of Medication During School Hours (Page 1 of 3)

The Wissahickon School District recognizes that parents have the primary responsibility for the health of their children. Although the District strongly recommends that medication when necessary should be given at home, it realizes that the health of some children requires that they receive medication / treatment while in school. Parents should confer with the child's primary care provider to arrange medication / treatment time intervals to avoid school hours whenever possible. When medication / treatment absolutely must be given during school hours, certain procedures must be followed:

- Any medication to be given during school hours must be delivered directly to the School Nurse. The medication must be brought to school in the original pharmaceutical dispensed and properly labeled container. All controlled medications must be delivered to the School Nurse by an adult, counted and recorded on the student's medication log. As per the *PA Controlled Substances Act*, no more than a thirty school day supply for anyone medication should be stored at school.
- All Medication / Treatments must be accompanied by authorization in writing on the WSD "Prescription Medication Dispensing Form," by a board-certified prescribing provider (i.e., physician, advanced practice nurse, psychiatrist, or dentist). The WSD "Prescription Medication Dispensing Form" can be obtained from the school health office or on the WSD website. This form must contain the following information:
  - a. Student name and grade
  - b. Name of medication to be given
  - c. Reason for medication/treatment
  - d. Dosage (amount to be given may not exceed manufacturer's recommended dosage); total dosage within 24 hours
  - e. Route of medication/treatment
  - f. Exact time medication/treatment is to be given
  - g. Possible side effects and treatment of possible side-effects
- The "*Prescription Medication Dispensing Form*" must also be signed by a parent/guardian for ALL medications/treatments. (*Note: this form is renewed annually.*)
- No emails or telephone requests will be accepted.
- Students in grades 6 through 12 will be responsible for reporting to the Nurse at the time the medication / treatment is to be given. In grades K through 5, individualized plans will be made for the administration by the School Nurse.

### **PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS**

1. Prescription medications, including inhalers and Epi-pens/Auvi-Q, must be brought to school with the pharmaceutical label on the container that includes the student and prescribing health care provider names. The prescribing health care provider may fax written orders to the School.
2. In order for a student to carry an inhaler or Epi-Pen/Auvi-Q for self-administration, a form requesting such must be signed by the physician and parent/guardian stating the student has been given instruction regarding the medication and direction to report to the School Nurse if self-administered as per Policy 210.1. (Obtain form from the School Nurse.) The appropriate form can be found on the WSD website.
3. If there is a change in medication or dosage, a new form must be completed by the physician and signed by the parent.



## Guidelines for Administration of Medication During School Hours (Page 2 of 3)

### **OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS**

1. Over-the-counter (OTC) medications must be provided by the parent/guardian and accompanied by a written note with the information outlined above. No OTC medication will be administered without a written note. No homeopathic or herbal product will be administered without a primary care provider order.
2. The Wissahickon School District Consulting Physician allows for administration of certain OTC medications including acetaminophen, ibuprofen and caladryl lotion. In the event of an unexpected allergic reaction in your child, liquid diphenhydramine and Epi-Pens/Auvi-Q are also available. The parent/guardian must continue to provide Epi-Pens/Auvi-Q for children with known severe allergic responses.
3. The School Nurse reserves the right to withhold administration of an OTC medication within the first two hours and the last one hour of the school day to protect the student from excessive medication ingestion.

All medication, both prescription and OTC, must be kept in the Nurse's Office other than medication covered under Policy 210.1.



## Regulations for Communicable Diseases (Page 1 of 1)

To eliminate any confusion that might exist in the minds of parents and health care providers with respect to attendance restrictions related to communicable diseases, the Wissahickon School District has set the following policies that we believe to be in the best interest of our students. These regulations are based on PA Code, Title 28, Chapter 27, Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases, Subchapter C Quarantine and Isolation, amended 1/25/02.

1. All persons having communicable diseases such as diphtheria, poliomyelitis, typhoid fever, small pox, meningitis, tuberculosis, etc., are assumed to be strictly quarantined for the full quarantine period as defined by State Law and may not attend school during this period. No child from the same household may attend school until released by the attending health care provider, who shall certify to three (3) days treatment and negative cultures.
2. Incubation Periods: All persons exposed to a communicable disease who have not previously had the disease or been immunized against a particular disease, should be aware of the Incubation Periods (the time from exposure to disease to the onset of that disease in the exposed person.) If any symptoms of an illness occur during this time period, please seek medical attention as soon as possible and exclude that person from school until a diagnosis is reached and that person has met the required exclusion period.

### DISEASE

### INCUBATION PERIOD

• Chickenpox	7 - 21 days
• German measles	10 - 21 days
• Measles	9 - 14 days
• Whooping Cough	2 - 21 days
• Streptococcal Infections (Including Scarlet Fever)	2 - 5 days
• Influenza and Viral Upper Respiratory Infections (colds)	1 - 3 days
• COVID-19	2 - 5 days

3. A child suffering from any of the following communicable diseases shall be excluded from school for the following periods: (This does not apply to other members of the same household.)

• Chickenpox	5 days from 1 <sup>st</sup> appearance or when vesicles are crusted over, whichever is sooner.
• Measles	4 days from the onset of rash
• Mumps	9 days from onset or until swelling has completely subsided
• Rubella	4 days from onset of rash
• Whooping Cough	3 weeks from onset or 5 days from start of treatment
• Respiratory Streptococcal Infections	24 hours after start of treatment (includes Scarlet Fever)
• Influenza and Viral Upper	1 day after temperature returns to normal without fever medication
• Respiratory Infections (Colds)	24 hours after temperature returns to normal without fever medication
• Tuberculosis	2 weeks after treatment, 3 consecutive negative morning sputum smears and a note from the attending physician that the student is non-communicable
• COVID-19	1 day after temperature returns to normal without fever medication and symptoms are improving (it is recommended to stay home for 5 days from the start of symptoms)
4. Any pupil suffering from impetigo or scabies shall be excluded from school and not re- admitted until a note is presented from the family health care provider stating that the pupil is under his/her care with his/her permission to re-enter.
5. Any pupil suspected of having a communicable disease and excluded from school shall not be reinstated within the prescribed interval unless a health care provider certifies that the pupil was not suffering from the suspected contagious disease.



## Immunization Information (Page 1 of 2)

The Department of Health has regulations regarding immunizations. The regulations are intended to ensure that children attending school in the commonwealth are adequately protected against potential outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.



### **A CHILD MUST HAVE REQUIRED VACCINES OR RISK EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL**

A child must have the required medically-appropriate vaccines or a plan to complete those vaccines or risk exclusion from school. A child may still obtain medical, religious or philosophical exemption from meeting the immunization requirements. Talk to your child's pediatrician about the vaccines your child needs to attend school.

On the first day of school, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had at least one dose of the above vaccinations or risk exclusion. If a child does not have all the doses listed above, needs additional doses, and the next dose is medically appropriate, the child must receive that dose within the first five days of school or risk exclusion. If the next dose is not the final dose of the series, the child must also provide a medical plan (red and white card) within the first five days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion.

For more information on the vaccines your child needs to attend school, visit [dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov](http://dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov) or talk to your child's pediatrician.

Under the regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, together with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the required immunizations are listed on the next page. Please note the immunizations required for these students:

- For Attendance in ALL Grades
- For Attendance in 7<sup>TH</sup> Grade
- For Attendance in 12<sup>TH</sup> Grade.

**Documentation of the required immunizations MUST be submitted in order for your child's registration to be considered complete and for him/her to attend the first day of school.**

All students new to the school **must also have a physical and dental examination on file.**

This examination is valid within one year of the student's entry into school and must be submitted to the School Nurse by October 15<sup>th</sup>.



## Form – Immunization Information (Page 2 of 2)

# SCHOOL VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDANCE IN PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLS

## FOR ATTENDANCE IN ALL GRADES CHILDREN NEED THE FOLLOWING:

- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis\* (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday)
- 4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given)\*\*
- 2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella\*\*\*
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or evidence of immunity

*Usually given as DTP or DTaP or if medically advisable, DT or Td \**

*A fourth dose is not necessary if the third dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least 6 months after the previous dose \*\**

*Usually given as MMR \*\*\**

## FOR ATTENDANCE IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) on the first day of 7<sup>TH</sup> grade
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) on the first day of 7<sup>TH</sup> grade

ON THE FIRST DAY OF 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had the above vaccines or risk exclusion.

## FOR ATTENDANCE IN 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- 1 dose of MCV on the first day of 12<sup>TH</sup> grade. If one dose was given at 16 years of age or older, that shall count as the twelfth grade dose.

ON THE FIRST DAY OF 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had the above vaccines or risk exclusion.

These requirements allow for the following exemptions: medical reason, religious belief, or philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction. Even if your child is exempt from immunizations, he or she may be excluded from school during an outbreak of vaccine preventable disease.

Pennsylvania's school immunization requirements can be found in 28 Pa.CODE CH.23 (School Immunization). Contact your healthcare Pennsylvania provider or call 1-877-PA-HEALTH for more information.

