

**BARRINGTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL
HEALTH
POLICY**

DEPARTMENT OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND 02806

Revised 11/2009

BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
283 County Road
Barrington, Rhode Island 02806
247-3145

The Barrington School Department employs six certified school nurse teachers, one consulting physician, and one consulting dentist. Their primary responsibility is to insure a healthy and safe environment for all students and staff.

The contents of this booklet have been prepared under their guidance to assist you in understanding school health policy regarding the prevention and control of communicable diseases. Should you have any questions of a health nature concerning your child, feel free to call the school nurse for guidance. Remember, they are not replacing your family physician, but rather are available to you as a resource for direction involving medical issues affecting your child.

Please read the contents of this booklet carefully. The primary purpose is to give you information about the most common health problems children encounter by nature of being in group settings. We hope you will find it helpful.

This booklet, as well as School Health Forms, can be found online, www.barringtonschools.org.

IMMUNIZATIONS AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

In accordance with the Rhode Island Department of Health *Rules and Regulations pertaining to Immunization and Testing for Communicable Diseases* (R23-1-IMM), all children entering school are required to have up to date immunizations. Kindergarten entrance also requires a lead and vision test. A physician's certificate or school health record, with actual dates of immunization, is the only acceptable documents of identification. **YOUR CHILD MAY NOT ENTER SCHOOL WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION.**

However, students may be exempt from the immunization requirement if: a) a licensed physician signs a medical exemption stating that such a student is exempt from a specific vaccine because of a medical reason; or b) a parent or guardian completes and signs the Immunization Exemption Form, available from the Office of Disease Control, Rhode Island Department of Health on the grounds of religious beliefs.

All children entering Kindergarten and all out-of-state transfer students must show evidence of a physical examination 12 months prior to or 6 months after entering school. A health history is also required for all new students. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT TO NOTIFY THE SCHOOL NURSE OF ANY CHANGES IN THEIR CHILD'S HEALTH STATUS, ESPECIALLY ALLERGIC REACTIONS, MEDICATION, ASTHMA, ETC.**

All students entering Grade 7 require a Physical Examination, Tdap and Varicella booster and 1 dose of Meningococcal vaccine. During the middle and high school years, students who participate in sports activities are required to have an annual physical examination.

POLICIES

Medications: School health policy requires special permission for use of any medications by students. If your child has over the counter or prescription medication, arrangements must be made with the school nurse for dispensing, generally given midday. **You and your child's physician** will be required to sign a consent form. The school nurse will make arrangements with the student regarding the time he/she is to come to the office. This medication will be supplied by parents in the original properly labeled container.

Teachers do not supervise or administer medications (this includes over the counter medications).

Occasionally, students are treated with medication at home. It is important for the nurse to be notified so that appropriate personnel can be made aware in case of untoward reactions during the school day.

Rhode Island State Rules and Regulations permit students to self-carry and self-administer a day's supply of medication during an off-site school sponsored activity (e.g. field trip). This medication must be properly supplied by the parent.

Mobility Problems: If your child has incurred problems of a medical nature regarding mobility, call your building principal/nurse. In most cases, the School Department can make temporary arrangements which will allow your child to participate in his/her classroom activities.

Excuse From Participation in School Activities: If your child must be excluded from activities, such as physical education classes, for more than 3 days, a **written excuse from your physician stating the diagnosis and dates of exclusion is necessary**. If the date to resume activity is not specified in the original excuse, a follow-up release when to resume activity is required from the physician.

Food Allergies: Barrington schools are committed to the safety and health of all students with food allergies. We abide by the Rhode Island State Rules and Regulations pertaining to food allergies. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school for severe food allergies.

Student Screenings: The School Department will conduct hearing, vision, and dental screenings. Students in 6th, 7th & 8th grades will be screened for scoliosis. Screening, by its very nature, is a relatively quick process and will only identify problems that are obvious. It does not replace parental responsibility to monitor the child's development in conjunction with the family dentist and pediatrician. There will be notification regarding all screenings. If for some reason you choose not to have your child participate, please give written notification to the school nurse.

CONTAGIOUS CONDITIONS

Chicken Pox/Shingles: Students will be excluded from school until all vesicles and scabs are dry. This usually takes about one week from the onset of rash.

Cold/Cough Symptoms: If your child is experiencing discomfort that would interfere with his/her school performance please keep him/her home until they are able to resume normal activity. If there is a prolonged cough with or without a fever consult his/her physician.

Conjunctivitis (Pink-Eye): This condition is easily spread by direct contact with discharge from the infected eye(s). Students will be excluded when eyes are inflamed and draining. Prescribed treatment is normally antibiotics. Your physician will tell you when it is appropriate for your child to return to school.

Fever: If your child's temperature is **100 degrees or higher** it is recommended he/she should remain at home until fever free for 24hrs without fever reducing medication.

Head Lice (Pediculosis): Head lice continue to be one of the most prevalent communicable childhood conditions among school age children. Outbreaks are possible wherever children gather. Once detected your child cannot return to school until after treatment and nit removal. We recommend your school nurse or physician be contacted for advice. Your child will be checked by the school nurse prior to readmission.

Impetigo: This is a common skin infection caused by bacteria. Lesions (sores) appear primarily around the nose and mouth but may present elsewhere on the body. Students may return after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment and lesions are dry.

Rashes: A suspicious skin rash with or without a fever, should be evaluated by your child's doctor.

Sore Throat/Strep Throat: A sore throat in conjunction with swollen glands may indicate strep throat. A fever is not always present with strep throat. Other symptoms may include a headache and/or upset stomach. A minor sore throat is fairly common, but a child with strep throat needs medical attention and may return to school after 24 hours of antibiotic therapy.

Vomiting/Diarrhea: A child with vomiting and /or diarrhea should be kept at home until symptoms have subsided, and the child is able to keep down food and liquid.