

HEALTH SERVICES - GENERAL INFORMATION



HEALTH SERVICES

Please call the School Nurse in the Health Office at 631-2440 ext. 113 by 9:00am if the student will be absent from school.

School Nurse, Gay Harmon, R.N. is available each day from 8:00am until 3:30pm, at 631-2440 ext. 113. Fax is 631-2441. Email is gharmon@pocanticohills.org.

[Nurse Office Webpage](#)

Emergency Phone Cards – **IMPORTANT**

Due to various emergencies that might arise during school hours, such as student illness or school closings due to inclement weather, it is important to have an emergency phone number on file for each child.

- The emergency number may be that of a relative, friend, neighbor, or a business number where you can be reached during school hours.
- If there are any changes in information contained on the student's Emergency card kept in the Health Office, please notify your child's teacher and the School Nurse.
- The Emergency Phone Card also functions as a medical release form when signed by the parent or guardian in the event that emergency medical care is necessary.

Health History

It is important for any change in the student's health history be communicated to the Nurse. A physical exam is required by law for the following students:

- Pre-K, Kindergarten (K), Second (2), Fourth (4) and Seventh (7) graders
- Those new to the school regardless of grade level
- Those participating in sports must have a current physical on file at school, a Sports Health History Form and an Athletic Registration Triplicate card completed by a parent or guardian, for each sport season, prior to beginning practice.
- The school physician will not examine a child without a current health history signed by a parent or guardian.

Medication Policy and Procedures

A number of students take daily medications. If it can be arranged, it is better for them to take their medication at home. However, depending on the student's needs, medication can be taken at school. The New York State Education Department has established the procedure by which medication may be administered in school. This policy applies to prescription medicine as well as over-the-counter medication.

Requirements for the administration of internal medication are as follows:

- The nurse must have on file a Medication Permission sheet from the physician & parent or guardian to administer the medication. In addition, the physician must outline the frequency and dosage of the prescribed medication and the condition being treated. A verbal or telephone request from the parent or physician is not acceptable.
- The parent or guardian and physician must provide this written authorization each year and/or when any change in medication is made.
- The parent or guardian is responsible for providing the medication, which will be kept in a locked place until administered as directed.
- The medication must be in a prescription-labeled pharmaceutical container with the student's name, medication name, dosage in milligrams and instructions.

- In the interest of safety, medication must be brought to the school by an adult.
- Students will not be permitted to deliver or carry any medication.
- No medications are provided by the school.
- These conditions apply to all medications taken in school, including aspirin, antibiotics and allergy pills.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for notifying the nurse immediately of any changes in medication.

Participation in Sports

The New York State Education Department has established regulations regarding physical assessment prior to participation in school sports. They are as follows:

- Each child participating in an interscholastic sport must have an annual physical examination.
- Prior to each season, a Health History questionnaire and Athletic Program Registration Triplicate form must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the school nurse by the student athlete to be cleared.

Immunization Requirements:

As required by NY State Dept. of Education, a clinic or physician's verification of the following is needed for school attendance:

- **three (3) or more doses** of diphtheria toxoid containing vaccine (**DTaP, DT, Td**); if born on/after 1/1/05 all three doses must consist of tetanus toxoid & pertussis vaccine (**DTaP**)
- **three (3) or more doses** of polio vaccine (**IPV**)
- **two (2) doses** of live measles vaccine ♦: 1st dose on or after first birthday; 2nd dose for kindergarten
- **one (1) dose** of live mumps vaccine ♦: administered on or after the 1st birthday
- **one (1) dose** of live rubella virus vaccine ♦: administered on or after the 1st birthday
- **three (3) doses** of Hepatitis B vaccine (**HBV**)
- **one (1) dose** of varicella (chicken pox) vaccine for those born on/after 1/1/98 or born on/after 1/1/94 and entering grades 6-12

♦ MMR is preferred vaccine

In addition, for pre-kindergartners:

Haemophilis influenzae type b vaccine (**Hib**): three (3) doses, or one (1) dose after 15 months of age

Pneumococcal conjugate (**PCV**) vaccine for those born on/after 1/1/08: four (4) doses by 15 months of age given at age-appropriate times & intervals

For Students entering 6th Grade:

one (1) dose of tetanus toxoid, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis vaccine (**Tdap**) for students born after 1/1/94 entering 6th, 7th or 8th grades for the 2012-2013 school year

* New York State Education Laws require proof of adequate immunization or a certificate from a physician stating that the child cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons or if the parents are members of a recognized religious organization whose teachings are contrary to immunization practices. Religious Exemption forms are available in Nurse's Office.

If you have any questions about these requirements, if you require a Student Medical Form, or if you have concerns about your child, please call the School Nurse.

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