

Wilson Area School District

Health Testing and Scope of Nursing Services

The school health program should be educational in nature, and every health situation should be utilized as a learning experience for pupils, parents, and teachers. As an integral part of the school staff, the school nurse helps organized the school health program, schedules physical and dental examinations, oversees immunization programs, vision, hearing, and TB testing, advises pupils and parents of individual student's health needs, and maintains comprehensive and confidential health records for each child.

1. Mandated School Health Services/ Immunizations

The school nurse(s) has the responsibility of implementing those health services mandated by the PA Department of Health, as shown in the **attached chart**. These include specific health screenings, as well as physical and dental exams, at specific grade levels. It is the responsibility of the school nurses to remain current on the mandated services, and on the recommended grade levels for these services.

Students may choose to have the required physical examinations completed by their private physician, who would then submit a Private Physician Report Form. **The PA Dept. of Health has directed that school districts may accept reports of private physical and dental exams completed within one year prior to a student's entry into the grade where an exam is required.** Parents choosing to have the exam completed by the school physician may also choose to be present during the examination, as well as during any and all screenings, by notifying the appropriate school nurse.

Students will not be examined by the school physician without written permission of the parent/guardian. Parents of students who fail to have a mandated physical exam (either through the school physician or by their private physician) will be given notice by registered letter that such must be completed over the summer. Students failing to do so will be excluded from school in Sept. until the mandate is met.

Students transferring from out of state or out of district, who have not previously had the mandated health services/ screenings, will be provided those services within one year after entry.

The school nurse also monitors immunizations of students entering school, in accordance with the regulations of the Department of Education and the Department of Health.

2. Kindergarten Registration

Nurses assist with the Spring full-day registration of new entrants in each of the elementary buildings. They are responsible for gathering and recording the pertinent health information as required in the registration process.

3. Sports Physicals

Candidates for all athletic teams throughout the school year are given complete physical examination by the school physician, at no cost to the student, prior to each sport season, regardless of how many other physical examinations the student may have received during the same school year. Student athletes may choose to have the sports physical(s) done by a private physician no sooner than 6 weeks prior to the start of practice for their sport, **with the exception of the Fall Sports Season. Student sports physicals for Fall Sports may be done any time after June 1 preceding the sports season.** The physicals, and the mandated time frame, are required by PIAA rules. In addition, wrestlers must have their weight class certified by the school physician. Nurses coordinate and schedule sports physicals and weight certification and assist the school physician as necessary.

4. Working Papers for Pupils Applying for Jobs

The school nurse completes information regarding height, weight, and vision testing, and schedules a physical exam with the school physician.

5. SAP Team Member

The school nurse in the secondary schools is expected to be a contributing member of the Student Assistance Program, and to advise the Student Assistance Team of health-related issues related to drug/ alcohol abuse, as well as mental health issues.

6. Students Returning from Absence

The school nurse can, if she deems it necessary, require examination or consultation with either the family physician or the school physician prior to a student's readmission to school. The nurse will include parents in all communication regarding a student's readiness for return to school.

7. Pupils Requiring School Program Modification

The school nurse prepares a complete list of all pupils known to require a modified physical education program, special seating in the classroom, or any other special considerations. The list is distributed early in the school year and is updated periodically.

8. Emergency Care

The school nurse assists students who become ill in school, renders first aid in case of accidents or injuries, makes arrangements to have pupils transported to their home, doctor's office, or the hospital emergency department when needed. When there is no other course of action, the nurse may, in conjunction with an administrator and with parent permission, transport a sick or injured pupil and remain with the child until a responsible adult arrives to assume care.

The school nurse will maintain close communication with parents whose students come to the health room with illness or injury. When appropriate, she will advise parents to seek assistance from a competent and qualified health provider.

The nurse may recommend exclusion from school for students diagnosed with a communicable or infectious disease, in accordance with the regulation of the Department of Health. Communicable diseases include but are not limited to measles, whooping cough, strep throat, scarlet fever, chicken pox, and mumps. Infectious diseases include but are not limited to, pink eye, head or body lice, scabies, and ringworm.

9. Medication/ Medical Procedures

The school nurse (or designee) will administer or oversee the administration of student medication, in accordance with the district's medication policy. Before any prescription or non-prescription medication is given, the student must have both parent and physician **written authorization**.

For students who need specialized medical procedures (such as blood glucometer testing, Epi-pen injection) in order to access educational services, the nurse (or designee) will perform such procedures as required by a physician under a Protected Handicapped Service Agreement, in accordance with district policy. The school nurse will assist with in-service presentations related to the medical needs of students enrolled in the schools.

10. Records

The school nurse handles student insurance forms, completes accident reports and workers compensation reports, maintains health room logs and student medication forms, monitors and records mandated student health screenings, referral health forms, and does whatever follow-up is necessary to assist pupils, parents, staff, physicians, hospitals and insurance companies to insure that students and staff are well cared for.

11. Resource

The school nurse serves as a resource to parents, pupils, teachers, support staff, and administrators in matters related to health, and to school health in particular. She advises administrators regarding issues such as Universal Procedures for Dealing with Body Fluids, food allergies, etc.

The school nurse assists pregnant students and/or their parents in making adjustments in the school program so that the pregnant girl is not denied the opportunity to an education. The school nurse will not however make outside appointments for students to receive pregnancy counseling and/or medical attention. Professional personnel are provided this information about a pregnant student on a need-to-know basis, contingent upon permission of a student and/or parent.