

Student Health Policies

ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS: Petersham Center School Policy JHCD MDPH REG. 105 CMR 210.00

Medications (prescription or non-prescription) may be administered to a student in school only by a registered nurse or a non-licensed person designated and trained by the school nurse.

Medications will only be administered to students in school if:

- a.) there is a complete written order from a licensed prescriber (physician, dentist or nurse practitioner);
- b.) there is written consent from a parent/guardian and
- c.) the medication is in a pharmacy – labeled container or the manufacturer's original container.
- d) Only FDA approved medications will be administered.

Medication must be delivered to school by a parent/guardian (or other responsible adult) unless otherwise prearranged with the school nurse. No medications should be sent in/or home with a student.

Medication must be in the original pharmacy or manufacturer labeled container and contain no more than a thirty (30) days' supply. Have the pharmacy prepare a separate container of medication to be kept at school.

If you know that your child will need his/her medication during school hours, ask your pharmacist to divide the prescription into two bottles when he/she is filling the prescription. They will put a label on both bottles and then you will not have to drop-off/pick-up medications every day.

NO over-the-counter medications, including cough drops will be given at school unless there is a doctor's order and parent permission form accompanying the medication. We will not give antihistamines, cold medications, creams, lotions, or ointments without a doctor's medication order.

NO MEDICATION WILL BE ADMINISTERED AFTER 2:30 P.M.

Special Medication Situations:

- a. For short-term medication, i.e. those requiring administration for ten days or less, the pharmacy-labeled container may be used in lieu of a licensed prescriber's order. The nurse may request a licensed prescriber's order if there is any question relative to the order.
- b. Field trips and other short-term special school events: every effort shall be made to obtain a nurse or school staff member trained in medication administration to accompany students at special school events. When this is not possible, the school nurse may delegate medication administration to another responsible adult. Written consent from the parent/guardian for the named responsible adult to administer the medication shall be obtained. The school nurse shall instruct the responsible adult on how to administer the medication to the child.
- c. Standing Orders: The parent/guardian may choose to have standing orders for the student by signing the "Standing Orders" form available from the school nurse. These orders contain School Physician's written order for specific over-the-counter medications that can be given by the school nurse.
- d. Self-administration of medication by students will be allowed if a.) the school nurse, the student and parent/guardian agree that this is a viable and safe method of medication administration, and b.) there

is written permission from the student's parent/guardian. The school nurse may request a written order from a licensed prescriber for self-administration.

- e. Administration of epinephrine by unlicensed personnel, trained by the school nurse, to students with diagnosed life-threatening allergic conditions, when the school nurse is not immediately available.

In accordance with standard nursing practice, the school nurse may refuse to administer or allow to be administered any medication, which, based on his/her individual assessment and professional judgment, has the potential to be harmful, dangerous, or inappropriate. In these cases, the school nurse shall notify the parent/guardian and licensed prescriber immediately, to explain the reason for refusal.

The first dose of any new medication or treatment must take place at home and the student must remain home for 24 hours to monitor for reaction.

ALLERGIES - BEE/INSECT STINGS

It is extremely important that each year parents notify the school of any allergic condition, which afflicts their child especially associated with bee stings, or the bites of insects. Stinging insects are very common on the playgrounds, especially in the late spring and early fall. If your child requires immediate medical attention for stings, be sure to notify the school promptly.

"CHILDHOOD" COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Parents are encouraged to call their physician if they suspect their child has a "childhood" communicable disease such as chicken pox or mumps. A child showing signs of ill health or of being infected with a disease or condition dangerous to the public health, shall be sent home immediately, or as soon as safe/proper convenience can be arranged. Some conditions that could require temporary exclusion from school are Chicken Pox, Impetigo, Pediculosis (head lice), Conjunctivitis (pink eye), Staph/Strep Infections, Scabies, Ringworm, and other contagious conditions. Upon returning to school, the child must report to the school nurse or principal before returning to class.

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

Policy JHCC the purpose of any policy dealing with health services in the school is to help each child attend school in optimum health and to benefit from the school experience. It is with this purpose in mind that PCS school committee has adopted for use in the Petersham Center School policy the regulations proposed by the State Department of Human Services — Attendance by Children with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or Clinical Evidence of Infection with the Human Immune-Deficiency Virus (HIV). (Copies of Regulations are available upon request from the Superintendent's office.)

SENSITIVITY TO FRAGRANCES AND CHEMICAL ODORS: Petersham Center School Policy EFAB

It is the policy of the Petersham Center School to maintain a consistent set of procedures for the treatment of persons who have a high level of sensitivity to fragrances and to various chemicals. There are many people who experience unpleasant physical effects from scented products, such as perfume and colognes. Sometimes, it might be a headache or nausea when passing by a department store's fragrance counter or riding in an elevator with someone wearing a certain fragrance. However, there is a growing number of people who suffer more severe reactions to these and many other types of products and chemicals. This condition is known as multiple chemical sensitivities (MCS) and involves people who have developed an acute sensitivity to various chemicals in the environment. People with MCS experience a range of debilitating physical reactions, some even life-threatening, to chemicals used in a variety of products, including fragrances and personal care products, deodorizers and cleaners, pesticides, wall and floor coverings, and building materials.