

**BARRINGTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL
HEALTH
POLICY**

**DEPARTMENT OF
PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES**

BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND 02806

Revised 2007

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

The Barrington School Department employs five 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 pamphlet have been prepared under their guidance to assist you in understanding school health policy regarding the prevention and control of communicable diseases and other contagious conditions. Should you have any questions of a health nature concerning your child, feel free to call the school nurse for advice. Remember, they are not replacing your family physician, but rather are available to you for advice, counsel, or direction to resolve immediate medical issues effecting your child.

Please read the contents of this booklet carefully. Its 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

Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis, PCV and Varicella immunizations are mandatory in order to be eligible to attend school in Rhode Island.

Kindergarten entrance also requires a lead and vision test. A doctor's certificate or school health record, with actual dates of immunization, are 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.**

Physical examinations and Tetanus Booster are required for all students entering grade 7. During the middle and high school years, students who participate in sports activities are required to have an annual physical examination.

Ambulatory Problems

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

Streptococcal Infections (Sore Throat), Scarlet Fever, Impetigo

If you have questions to discuss with your school nurse, contact your school secretary who will put you in touch with her immediately. School nurses may cover several schools during the school day.

A positive throat culture requires medical attention for which an antibiotic is usually prescribed. After **twenty-four hours** with antibiotic therapy, the child may return to school if symptoms, sore throat and fever, have subsided. This is a Health Department regulation.

Scarlet Fever

Treatment is the same as **Sore Throat**, except your family physician will advise you regarding the appropriate time to return to school.

Impetigo

Lesions (sores) appear primarily around the nose and mouth. Because children tend to scratch with contaminated fingernails, the crusty lesions are contagious and spread if not treated properly. This is usually a strep infection, and medical attention is necessary.

Normally, your doctor will prescribe antibiotic treatment. All crusty areas should be healed and dry before the student is allowed to return to school.

Chicken Pox/Shingles

Our school policy is to exclude the child until all vesicles and scabs are dry. This usually takes about one week from the onset of rash.

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

This is a condition that is very communicable and often entire families are affected. Exclusion from school is mandatory until proper treatment is completed. If you, as a parent, detect this condition, please notify your school nurse who will examine your child and his/her classmates. **All investigations are done discreetly and in confidence.**



We recommend that your physician or school nurse be contacted for advice. An ovicidal insecticide that penetrates the egg and kills the developing louse is the only way to get rid of head lice. Your child may return to school after treatment and nit removal. Upon request, the school nurse will give the family advice regarding decontamination of household articles and clothing.

Conjunctivitis (Eye Inflammation)

Students will be excluded from school when eyes are inflamed and draining. Prescribed treatment is normally antibiotics, ointment or drops. Your doctor will tell you when it is appropriate for your child to return to school.

Colds

Colds are the most common infections of children and of adults. The child with a cold should be kept at home until symptoms such as runny nose, cough, and fever have subsided. After the child has resumed normal activity at home, he should be well enough to return to school.

Regarding All Medication

School health policy requires special permission for use of any medications by students. If your child has medications prescribed by a physician, arrangements must be made with the school nurse for dispensing during school time. **You and your child's physician** will be required to sign a consent form.



The school nurse will then 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 pharmacy bottle.

Teachers cannot be required to supervise or administer medications (This includes over the counter medications).

OCCASIONALLY STUDENTS ARE TREATED WITH MEDICATIONS AT HOME FOR CONDITIONS SUCH AS ALLERGIES, EPILEPSY OR OTHER PROBLEMS. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE NURSE TO BE NOTIFIED SO THAT SHE CAN ALERT THE TEACHER IN CASE OF ANY 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.

Excuses 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 the physician stating the diagnosis and dates of exclusion is necessary.



Policy for Student Screenings (Hearing, Vision, Dental, Scoliosis)

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 of screenings in the school newsletters. If for some reason you choose not to have your child participate, please let the school nurse know.

