

Students

Student Health Services

School District Medical Advisor

The Board of Education (Board) shall appoint a school district medical advisor and appropriate medical support service personnel including nurses.

The school district medical advisor, in cooperation with the Board and the board of health/health department for the school district, shall:

1. Plan and administer each school's health program,
2. Advise on the provision of school health services,
3. Provide consultation on the school health environment, and
4. Perform any other duties as agreed between the advisor and the appointing board of education.

School health efforts shall be directed toward detection and prevention of health problems and to emergency treatment, including the following student health services:

1. Appraising the health status of student and school personnel;
2. Counseling students, parents, and others concerning the findings of health examination;
3. Encouraging correction of defects;
4. Helping prevent and control disease;
5. Providing emergency care for student injury and sudden illness;
6. Maintaining school health records.

Health Records

There shall be a health record for each student enrolled in the school district which will be maintained in the school nurse's room. For the purposes of confidentiality, records will be treated in the same manner as the student's cumulative academic record.

Student health records are covered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and are exempt from the Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy rule. However, it is recognized that obtaining medical information from health care providers will require schools to have proper authorization and to inform parents that such information once released by health care providers is no longer protected under HIPAA but is covered under FERPA.

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Student Health Services (continued)

Regular Health Assessments

Prior to enrollment in kindergarten, each child shall have a health assessment by one of the following medical personnel of the parents or guardians choosing to ascertain whether the student has any physical disability or other health problem tending to prevent him or her from receiving the full benefit of school work and to ascertain whether such school work should be modified in order to prevent injury to the student or to secure for the student a suitable program of education:

1. a legally qualified physician;
2. an advanced practice registered nurse;
3. a registered nurse;
4. a physician's assistant;
5. a school medical advisor;
6. a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a physician assistant stationed at any military base.

Such health assessment shall include:

1. Physical examination which shall include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, and blood pressure;
2. Updating of immunizations required under C.G.S. 10-204a as periodically amended;
3. Vision, hearing, postural, and gross dental screening;
4. If required by the school district medical advisor, testing for tuberculosis and sickle cell anemia or Cooley's Anemia;
5. Any other information including a health history as the physician believes to be necessary and appropriate.

Health assessments shall also be required in grades 6 or 7 and in grades 9 or 10 by a legally qualified physician of each student's parents or guardians own choosing, or by the school medical advisor, or the advisor's designee, to ascertain whether a student has any physical disability or other health problem. Such health assessments shall include:

1. Physical examination which shall include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, and blood pressure;
2. Updating of immunizations required under C.G.S. 10-204a and the Department of Public Health, Public Health Code, 10-204a-2a, 10-204-3a and 10-204a-4;
3. Vision, hearing, postural, and gross dental screening;

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Student Health Services

Regular Health Assessments (continued)

4. If required by the school district medical advisor and the local health department, testing for tuberculosis and sickle cell anemia or Cooley's Anemia;
5. Any other information including a health history as the physician believes to be necessary and appropriate.

A child will not be allowed, as the case may be, to begin or continue in district schools unless health assessments are performed as required. Students transferring into the district must provide evidence of required Connecticut vaccinations, immunizations, and health assessments at enrollment and prior to school attendance.

Health assessments will be provided by the school medical advisor or the advisor's designee without charge to all students whose parents or guardians meet the eligibility requirement of free and reduced priced meals under the National School Lunch Program or for free milk under the special milk program.

The Board of Education shall annually designate a representative to receive reports of health assessments and immunizations from health care providers.

Health assessment results and recommendations signed by the examining physician or authorized medical personnel shall be recorded on forms provided by the Connecticut State Board of Education and kept on file in the school the student attends. Upon written authorization from the student's parent or guardian, original cumulative health records shall be sent to the chief administrative officer of the school district to which such student moves and a true copy of the student's cumulative health records maintained with the student's academic records. The Superintendent of Schools, or designee, shall notify parents of any health-related problems detected in health assessments and shall make reasonable efforts to assure that further testing and treatment is provided, including advice on obtaining such required testing or treatment.

Students who are in violation of Board requirements for health assessments and immunizations will be excluded from school after appropriate parental notice and warning.

Vision Screening

All students in grades K, 1, 3, 4, & 5 will be screened using a Snellen chart, or equivalent screening, by the school nurse or school health aide. Additional vision screening will also be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student in question. Results will be recorded in the student's health record on forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the superintendent shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent or guardian of each student found to have any defect of vision, with a brief statement describing such defect.

As necessary, special educational provisions shall be made for students with disabilities.

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Student Health Services (continued)

Hearing Screening

All students will be screened for possible hearing impairments in grades K, 1, 3, 4, & 5. Additional audiometric screening will be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student. Results will be recorded in the student's health record on forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the Superintendent shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent or guardian of each student found to have any defect of hearing, with a brief statement describing such defect.

As necessary, special educational provisions shall be made for students with disabilities.

Postural Screening

School nurses will screen all female students in grades 5 and 7 and male students in grade 8 or 9 for scoliosis or other postural problems. Additional postural screening will also be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student. Results will be recorded in the student's health record on forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the Superintendent shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent or guardian of each student found to have any postural defect of problem, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease.

As necessary, special educational provisions shall be made for students with disabilities.

Tuberculin Testing

In addition to tuberculin testing, if required by the school district medical advisor, as part of regular student health assessments, all new students, including preschool students, will be required to have at least one test for tuberculosis prior to entry in district schools, if determined to be at risk for exposure to TB.

A test for tuberculosis should be performed if any of the following risk factors prevail:

1. birth in a high risk country of the world (see list of countries in Appendix) and do not have a record of a TST (tuberculin skin test) or IGRA (interferon-gamma release assay) performed in the United States;
2. travel to a high risk country, staying at least a week with substantial contact with the indigenous population since the previously required examination;
3. extensive contact with persons who have recently come to the United States since the previously required examination;
4. contact with persons suspected to have tuberculosis, or
5. lives with anyone who has been in a homeless shelter, jail or prison, uses illegal drugs or has an HIV infection.

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Tuberculin Testing (continued)

The results of the risk assessment and testing, when done, should be recorded on the State of Connecticut Health Assessment Record (HAR-3) or directly in the student's Cumulative Health Record (CHR-1)

Immunizations/Vaccinations

No student will be allowed to enroll in any program operated as part of the district schools without adequate immunization against the following diseases:

1. Measles
2. Rubella
3. Poliomyelitis
4. Diphtheria
5. Tetanus
6. Pertussis
7. Mumps
8. Hemophilus influenza type B
9. Any other vaccine required by Section 19a-7f of Connecticut General Statutes.
10. Hepatitis B
11. Varicella (chickenpox)
12. Hepatitis A
13. Pneumococcal disease
14. Influenza
15. Meningococcal disease

All students in grades K-12 are required to have received 2 doses of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine or serologic proof of immunity. Students entering kindergarten and seventh grade shall show proof of having received 2 doses of varicella vaccine, laboratory confirmation of immunity, or present a written statement signed by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse indicating the individual has had varicella based on family or medical history. (Varicella requirement effective August 1, 2011)

All seventh grade students must show proof of 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine and 1 dose of Tdap in addition to the completion of the primary DTP series.

All students in grades K-12 are required to have 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine or serologic evidence of immunity.

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Immunizations/Vaccinations (continued)

Exemptions:

Act P.A. 21-2 eliminates the religious exemption from immunization requirements for individuals attending (1) public and private schools, including higher education institutions, and (2) child care centers and group and family day care homes. Under current law, individuals may opt out of vaccination if they present a statement that immunization would be contrary to their religious beliefs or, for minors, those of their parent or guardian.

The Act grandfathers in individuals enrolled in grades kindergarten or higher who submitted a religious exemption prior to the bill's passage (April 28, 2021). It continues to grandfather these students if they transfer to another public or private school in the state (i.e., a primary or secondary school).

Under the Act, individuals with prior religious exemptions who are enrolled in pre-kindergarten or other preschool programs generally must comply with immunization requirements by September 1, 2022, or within 14 days after transferring to a different public or private program, whichever is later.

However, the Act allows these children to extend the timeframe within which they must comply with the immunization requirements if they present a written declaration from the child's physician, physician assistant (PA), or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) that an alternative immunization schedule is recommended.

The Act also retains current law's medical exemption from these immunization requirements for individuals who can document that the immunization is medically contraindicated.

The medical exemption certificate must include:

1. definitions of "contraindication" and "precaution";
2. a list of contraindications and precautions recognized by the CDC for each statutorily-required immunization from which the provider may select on behalf of an individual;
3. a section where the provider may record a contraindication or precaution not recognized by the CDC, but that in the provider's discretion, results in the vaccination being medically contraindicated, including (a) an autoimmune disorder or family history of one, (b) family history of a reaction to a vaccine, (c) genetic predisposition to a vaccine reaction determined by genetic testing, and (d) a previous documented reaction correlated to a vaccine;
4. a section where the provider may include a written explanation for the medical exemption;
5. a section requiring the provider's signature;
6. a requirement that the provider attach the individual's most current immunization record; and
7. a synopsis of the grounds for any order of quarantine or isolation related to the exemption.

The school nurse will report to the local Director of Health any occurrence of State of Connecticut defined reportable communicable diseases.

Health Assessments/Interscholastic Sports Programs

Any student participating in an interscholastic sports program must have a health assessment, within the past thirteen months prior to the first training session for the sport or sports. After the initial examination, repeat examinations are required every two years. Each participant in a sport program must complete a health questionnaire before participating in each sport.

Parents are expected to use the services of their private physician. If a student is unable to obtain a health assessment from his/her personal physician for financial or other reasons, an examination can be arranged with school medical advisor. Health assessment results shall be recorded on forms provided by the Connecticut State Board of Education, signed by the examining physician, school medical advisor or advisor's designee, filed in the student's health folder, and maintained up to date by the school nurse.

Coaches and physical education staff shall insure appropriate monitoring of an athlete's physical condition.

Students

Student Health Services (continued)

Student Medical Care at School

School personnel are responsible for the immediate care necessary for a student whose sickness or injury occurs on the school premises during school hours or in school-sponsored and supervised activities.

Schools shall maintain files of emergency information cards for each student. If a child's injury requires immediate care, the parent or guardian will be called by telephone by the nurse, the building principal, or other personnel designated by the principal, and advised of the student's condition. When immediate medical or dental attention is indicated, and when parents or guardians cannot be reached, the student will be transported to the nearest hospital unless otherwise indicated on the student's Emergency Information card. In this event, the family physician/dentist and school district medical advisor will be notified of school district actions.

- (cf. 5125.11 - Health/Medical Records HIPAA)
- (cf. 5142 - Student Safety)
- (cf. 5141.3 - Health Assessments & Immunizations)
- (cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse and Neglect)
- (cf. 5141.5 - Suicide Prevention)
- (cf. 6142.1 - Family Life and Sex Education)
- (cf. 6145.2 - Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics)
- (cf. 6171 - Special Education)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-203 Sanitation.

10-204a Required immunizations, as amended by PA 15-174 & PA 15-242.

10-204c Immunity from liability

10-205 Appointment of school medical advisors.

10-206 Health assessments, as amended by PA 07-58 and PA 11-179.

10-206a Free health assessments.

10-207 Duties of medical advisers, as amended by P.A. 12-198.

10-208 Exemption from examination or treatment.

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Student Health Services

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes (continued)

10-208a Physical activity of student restricted; boards to honor notice.

10-209 Records not to be public. (as amended by P.A. 03-211)

10-210 Notice of disease to be given parent or guardian.

10-212 School nurses and nurse practitioners.

10-212a Administration of medicines by school personnel.

10-213 Dental hygienists.

10-214 Vision, audiometric and postural screening: When required; notification of parents re defects; record of results. (As amended by PA 96-229 An Act Concerning Scoliosis Screening)

10-214a Eye protective devices.

10-214b Compliance report by local or regional board of education.

10-217a Health services for children in private nonprofit schools. Payments from the state, towns in which children reside and private nonprofit schools.

Department of Public Health, Public Health Code – 10-204a-2a, 10-204a-3a and 10-204a-4.

Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, added by section 513 of P.L. 93-568, codified at 20 U.S.C. 1232g).

42 U.S.C. 1320d-1320d-8, P.L. 104-191, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

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THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Thomaston, Connecticut