

Milton Town School District

Policy

F6: STUDENT HEALTH

Policy

It is the goal of the Milton Town School District to keep our entire school population as healthy as possible. We thus implement this student health policy, with the guidance of the Vermont Department of Education and Vermont Department of Health.

Documentation

The school nurse shall keep daily records of health office visits. In instances where paper reports or documents are generated in relation to student health, the school nurse will ensure that they are properly completed and signed by the necessary adults and added to the student's health chart. School nurses will generate reports and provide data in a necessary, ongoing manner to facilitate a healthy and safe school environment.

The school nurse is required to submit an annual report to the Vermont Department of Health detailing information such as the number of students with asthma and asthma action plans, immunization status of the student population, contact with regular health and dental care, etc. A health form will be sent out each summer for parents/guardians to complete to detail this information, as well as any specific health concerns that a student may have or any medications that they may be on, even if those medications are not generally given at school. It is required that these forms be completed and submitted at the beginning of each school year. Having an accurate picture of a student's health history helps the school nurse to provide the best care possible.

Illness/Communicable Conditions

Students with a known communicable condition (such as, but not limited to strep throat and conjunctivitis/pink eye) are to remain out of school until they have received antibiotic therapy for 24 hours. Students who have a fever of 100 degrees or more are required to remain home from school until their temperature is less than 100 degrees for 24 hours, without ibuprofen or acetaminophen. Recommendations of the Vermont Department of Health will be followed.

If a student comes to school and is suspected of having a communicable condition, the student shall be sent to the health office, where the school nurse will determine the need for the student to be sent home. If a student is sent home for a communicable illness, the health office staff (school nurse) will work with the family to provide guidance for when the student can return to school. This is generally after 24 hours of antibiotic therapy, or 24 hours after symptoms resolve. In cases where a student has had severe vomiting or diarrhea, we require that students not return until their symptoms have been resolved for 24 hours and they are able to resume normal dietary habits.

In cases where there are attendance issues, the school will work with the family to make a plan, possibly requiring that the student be evaluated by the school nurse before deciding if the student requires an additional absence.

Student Medication

The Milton Town School District shall have procedures in place to ensure compliance with laws and regulations governing the possession, administration and storage of prescription and non-prescription medications needed by students at school or during school sponsored activities.

The Superintendent (or designee) will develop procedures governing the possession, administration and storage of medication needed by any student during the regular school day or during school sponsored activities. The procedures will comply with the following:

- Medication may be given by the school nurse, or a person designated and trained by the school nurse, upon written orders from a physician, and upon written request of a student's parent or guardian that the district comply with the physician's orders. The physician's orders must detail the name of the student, the name of the drug, dosage, time interval the medication is to be taken, route of administration (i.e. orally), diagnosis and reason for the medication being given.
- Medication must be brought to school in a container labeled by the pharmacy or physician, and stored by the school nurse or his/her designee in a secure storage place.
- Students with life threatening allergies or with asthma, whose parents or guardians comply with all of the requirements of 16 V.S.A. §1387, shall be permitted to possess and self-administer emergency medications at school, on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, on school provided transportation, and during school-related programs. A physician's order and parent/guardian permission are required to be on file in the health office for all prescription medications to be administered at school, even those that are self-carried.

Non-prescription medication must be accompanied by a written request from the parent or guardian of a student bringing such medication to school. The request must contain certain assurances that the student has suffered no previous ill effects from the use of the medication. Medication must be left in the custody of the school nurse. Non-prescription medication will be administered by the school nurse upon permission from the parent/guardian. Verbal permission will be obtained via a phone call on a case-by-case basis, unless there is the need for ongoing over-the-counter treatment. In cases where the parent or guardian wishes for the student to have non-prescription medication in school for a brief period (up to two weeks), the parent or guardian must provide request in writing to the health office and the medication must be kept with the school nurse. If non-prescription medication will be needed at school for a longer period, the parent or guardian shall provide the health office with a note from the doctor requesting that the student have the medication at school, along with permission from the parent/guardian to administer the medication and speak to the doctor as necessary.

The school shall provide an opportunity for communication with the pupil, parent or guardian, and physician regarding the efficacy of the medication administered during school hours. In the case of medication possessed by students with life threatening allergies or with asthma, the school shall provide forms for parent/guardian to submit authorizing possession of the medication and releasing the school from liability as a result of any injury arising from the student's self-administration of the emergency medication.

Treatment of Students

All school personnel are responsible for securing or giving assistance for first aid care as needed during the school day, or at school-related events or activities. During the school day, the school nurse should be consulted on all injuries, except for minor cuts or scrapes that can be cleansed and bandaged in the classroom.

In the case of a serious injury, parents/guardians will be notified.

Parents or guardians of all students will be required to sign and submit an emergency medical authorization form indicating their wishes regarding the school's treatment of their child in the event of a medical emergency. In the event of a medical emergency, the school will comply with these requests as much as possible and every reasonable attempt will be made to contact the parent or guardian. In the event that the student needs to be transported from the school, the school nurse or other appropriately designated adult will remain with the student until they are transferred to the care of the parent/guardian or the appropriate responder (police, emergency medical personnel, physician, etc).

No injured child will be sent home without permission from the parent or guardian. Students in grade 7 or higher may be dismissed home alone with permission from the parent or guardian if appropriate and necessary. Students with a serious injury will only be released from school into the care of an appropriate adult (parent/guardian, EMT, physician, etc).

The school district will comply with concussion guidelines detailed under 16 V.S.A. §1431. This law requires that schools educate their coaches, youth athletes and the parents/guardians of youth athletes regarding the prevention and management of concussion-related injuries. Students suspected of having a concussion-related injury must be evaluated by a properly qualified medical professional and may not return to play until the school district receives written certification from a properly qualified medical professional that the student is ready to return to play.

Students experiencing pain or injury in school, beyond band-aid treatable scratches and scrapes or headaches that can be treated with water, shall be assessed by the school nurse, regardless of the student's wishes on the matter.

Immunizations

The Milton Town School District will comply with 16 V.S.A. §1121, 1122, 1124 and 1126, which detail the immunization requirements students must meet to attend school.

The parent or guardian must provide documentation from their child's physician or other immunization provider (health department) showing their child is in compliance with the minimum vaccination schedule required by the law and Vermont Department of Health guidelines. Students may be provisionally admitted to school only with a signed provisional admittance form. Provisional admittance can be granted for a period of no more than six months, after which time proof of fully immunized status must be submitted.

For students requiring a medical exemption from the standard vaccination guidelines, the parent or guardian must provide the school nurse with documentation from the student's healthcare provider indicating the reason for the medical exemption and the period of time the exemption is in effect.

Those parents or guardians wishing to have their student exempt for non-medical reasons may contact the school nurse or the Vermont Department of Health to obtain the required form. The form is required to be signed and re-submitted annually. Parents or guardians wishing for a philosophical or religious exemption must attest that they have read and understand evidence-based educational materials on immunization provided by the Vermont Department of Health.

Vision and Hearing Screening

In compliance with 16 V.S.A. §1422, the Milton Town School District will provide both hearing and vision screening for students in pre-k, kindergarten, grades 1, 3 and 5. Students in grades 7, 9 and 12 will receive vision screening.

The school nurse shall:

- administer the appropriate tests
- record the test results
- notify the parent/guardian in the event of a suspected deficit in hearing or vision
- provide the required documentation to the superintendent to facilitate completion of necessary reports
- test any additional students as requested by school staff or a parent/guardian

The school nurse may use the services of other appropriately trained individuals to facilitate and administer the required screenings.

No child will be required to submit to screening if their parent/guardian provides a written and signed objection or suitable proof of an outside evaluation.

Physical Exams

The Vermont Principals' Association, the Vermont Departments of Health and Education, the Vermont Chapters of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Family Physicians, and the Vermont State School Nurses' Association all recommend that students receive a "Well Exam" prior to sports participation, rather than the former requirement of a "Sports Physical".

It is recommended that all students have yearly wellness exams with their primary care provider/medical home. However, the Milton Town School District requires that students have documentation of a wellness exam on file at least every two years for participation in school athletic programs. The district will supply appropriate forms for this purpose.

The school nurse is available to answer questions and will work with parents/guardians to address any barriers they may experience in order to assure the best health possible for our students.

Date Warned: 6/25/2012
Date Adopted: 7/23/2012
Legal Reference: 16 V.S.A. §1121 (Immunizations required prior to attending school)
16 V.S.A. §1122 (Exemptions)
16 V.S.A. §1124 (Access to Records)
16 V.S.A. §1126 (Noncompliance)
16 V.S.A. §1387 (Possession and self-administration of emergency medication)
16 V.S.A. §1422 (Periodic hearing and vision screening guidelines)
16 V.S.A. §1431 (Concussions and other head injuries)
Cross Reference: Head Lice (F17)
(Replaces 901, 902, 903, 904, 905 and previous F6 Student Medication)