Family & Community Involvement
Comprehensive School Health Education
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Health Services Handbook Introduction

School Health Services are provided to insure the best health possible for all students in order that they may receive maximum benefits from their educational experience. This handbook is designed to provide information for your understanding of New Horizon Health Services Program, which depends upon the cooperation of students, parents, staff, and community health personnel.

Please read the booklet now, for an overview, and keep it for future reference. This will inform you when specific services are being conducted or use as reference when you have need of a specific service.

EMERGENCIES/FIRST AID

New Horizon School fulfills its legal and personal responsibilities for the welfare of school children by:

1. Providing minor first aide (first treatment only) for injuries and illnesses to protect and comfort the student until authorized care is secured.

- Diagnoses are not made.
- No medication is given except as prescribed by your child’s physician. Only the school nurse gives prescribed medication. This is done only with a signed order with specific direction and the condition for which the medication is to be given is stated. Medication must be sent in the original container.
- Responsibility is not assumed for accidents occurring away from school.
2. Notifying the student’s parents.

- Parents should provide name, address and phone number of each parent (including work numbers) and of the family physician.
- It is imperative that emergency information be updated immediately when changes occur, i.e. job change, telephone phone number change or emergency contact information.

3. Arranging transportation for the student.

- Transportation is a family responsibility when your child is sick.
- Parents MUST provide name, address and phone number of a relative or a neighbor to be contacted when parents cannot be reached.

4. Guiding parents to sources of treatment when necessary.

5. In the event of a Nuclear Emergency Potassium Iodide pills are available to be given with parent permission.

**NOTIFICATION OF BUS DRIVERS OF STUDENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS:**

1. Parents are essential in the process of notifying bus drivers of life threatening medical conditions or other medical concerns. Please place an identification card with your student’s medical condition and contact information on the inside cover of your student’s back pack.
MANDATED SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

The following services are provided in accordance with the Public School Code of Pennsylvania.

1. A physical examination is required upon entry into school and in the 6th and 11th Grades.

2. A dental examination is required upon entry into school and in the 3rd and 7th grades.

   - The above examinations MUST be performed by the family physician. The approved school form (available in the health office and online) MUST be used. Examinations may be completed up to 1 year prior to the start of the school year. (This should accommodate insurance restrictions regarding examinations.)

3. An annual measurement of height, weight and BMI screenings of all students is completed.

4. An annual vision screening for all students is completed following the PA state vision guidelines.

5. An annual hearing screening for all students in grades K, 1, 2, 3, 7, 11 and students with known cases of repeated ear infections or known hearing loss will be provided as per guidelines.

6. An annual scoliosis screening for all 7th grade students.
BLOOD LIPID SCREENING

The Blood Lipid Screening Program is a Beaver County-wide project sponsored by the Beaver County Heart Association. It aims at identifying 7th grade students and their family who may be prone to heart attacks due to hereditary factors or faulty childhood diets. In such identified instances, diet and or medication may prevent this disease, which is considered one of the most serious health problems in the United States.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS OF EXAMINATION AND TESTS

Vision or hearing referrals will be sent if indicated. When students are referred for further evaluation, parents are urged to seek this information and to report the findings to the school nurse. Annual HT, WT, and BMI is reported to parents.
IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

To prevent disease, active immunization is necessary in the first two years of life. For most diseases, periodic re-immunization is needed to obtain optimal levels of immunity.

The Pennsylvania State Health Department regulations require the following immunizations for new school entrees:

DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS…………………4 or more doses, with one dose administered on or after the 4th Birthday.

POLIO……………………………………3 doses of trivalent oral vaccine.

MMR*……………………………………2 doses of vaccine *(Measles, Mumps, Rubella) this vaccine must be given after 15 months of age.

HEPATITIS B…………………………… 3 doses of vaccine

VARICELLA*…………………………… 2 doses of vaccine

Students entering 7th grade need the following:

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap)
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

There will be no provisional enrollment period for these immunizations. To be exempt from these required immunizations, parental written objection because of religious belief or a doctor’s certificate stating medical contraindication must be presented.

After the initial booster immunization against Diphtheria/Tetanus, 6 years of age, following boosters are recommended every 5 to 10 years.  
PA State Dept of Health –Butler County-724-287-1769
Immunizations are also available at various walk-in clinics across Beaver County.
EXCLUSIONS AND RE-ADMISSIONS

A student may be excluded from school because of suspicion of a communicable disease or a condition transmittable to others. Childhood communicable diseases such as measles and chicken pox are now more controlled with immunization than in previous years. If you are in doubt about the exclusion period of such a disease, the school nurse may advise you.

Transmittable conditions such as “pink eye”, head lice, ring worm, impetigo, and fever of 100.5F need medical attention. The family physician permission or complete recovery from the condition is necessary for re-admission to school.

For the protection of both the sick and the well student, no student should be sent to school when he/she is ill.

COORDINATED AND COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO SCHOOL HEALTH

The whole community is responsible for supporting the healthy development and academic performance of youth. It is a community’s shared commitment to its children that will enable those children to become responsible and productive adults.

Experts agree that a coordinated school health program that addresses specific guidelines and includes common components is the best way to respond to complex health and academic challenges facing our children.

Children’s health and education are compromised by risky behaviors, such as tobacco, alcohol and drug use, failure to use seat belts, lack of physical activity and poor diet. A good school health program addresses such risky behaviors.
If Your Student Needs Assistance:

If a student has a health condition, which requires medical, dental or surgical treatment, and the parent or guardian is financially unable to obtain this treatment, assistance may be available through various community agencies.

When a student fails the vision or hearing screening or is referred to his family physician as a result of the school examinations, follow through should be completed as soon as possible. If any financial condition or crisis prevents obtaining the needed care, please contact the school nurse who will refer you for assistance.
WHAT DOES A PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFIED SCHOOL NURSE DO?

The school nurse has a leadership role in the development, implementation, and interpretation of the school health program. Her activities are broad and varied. While she spends much of her time in individual consultation, she also has the satisfaction of working with many community and school groups. Here are a few of her special responsibilities.

- She carries out appraisal activities to assess the health needs and problems of all students.
- She counsels students and their parents to secure needed medical, dental or other treatment.
- She assists teachers in adapting the school programs to meet the individual needs of all students.
- She serves as a consultant and resource person for total health education program.
- She serves as liaison between the school and community health and welfare agencies and the medical profession.
- She protects students’ health with attention to environmental health factors and by providing emergency care for illness and injury.
- She serves, as a team member in identifying, evaluating and providing for special needs children.
- She cooperates in community health planning.