

STATE MANDATES

Health measures that are required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for children to attend school include:

Immunization verification:

- Preschool Entry
- Kindergarten Entry
- 7th Grade Entry
- All newly enrolled students

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 76, Section 1, specifically prohibit admitting a student without documentation from a physician, demonstrating that the child has been successfully immunized. The only exceptions are documented medical contraindication or religious beliefs.

Physical Exam:

A copy of the exam must be on file at the school.

- Entry to the Avon Public Schools (any level)
- Grade 4 and Grade 7
- Annually prior to participation in sports.

Lead Screening:

- Kindergarten



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When should a child stay home from school?

If the child has:

- A contagious illness: such as Chicken Pox (Varicella), Strep throat, Conjunctivitis, Scarlet Fever. The child should stay home until the doctor says it is safe to return. If the child is treated with antibiotics the student must be on the medication for 24 hours prior to returning to school.
- A fever 100° or greater child may not return until fever free for 24 hours after last dose of tylenol or other fever reducing medication.
- Vomiting or diarrhea.
- Head lice

Parents are asked to notify their child's school immediately in the event of a contagious disease, so that the teacher and nurse can take any necessary steps to protect the health of other children.

If a child is absent for 5 consecutive days a doctor's note is required the day the child returns to school.

What should I do if my child is absent?

- Student absences must be reported daily. Please call the school as early as possible. If the school does not hear from you, a staff member will call you to check that the child is at home and is not missing from school. This is done for the safety of students.
- The child should return to school with a note explaining the reason for the absence.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES



AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.avon.k12.ma.us

Click on Health Services

Nursing Staff

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School Health Services

School health services were originally established at the turn of the century to identify students with communicable diseases, and exclude them from school.

School nursing today is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well being, academic success, and life-long achievement of students. To that end, school nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development, promote health and safety, intervene with actual and potential health problems, provide case management services, and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy, and learning.

—National Association of School Nurses

Health Services Provided at School

- ◆ **Acute and emergency care**
- ◆ **Immunization surveillance**
- ◆ **State mandated health screening**
Each year students are screened for a variety of medical conditions. Parents receive written notice if a student is unable to successfully complete a screening according to the MA Department of Public Health guidelines. It is expected that the child will then be seen by his/her primary doctor and follow up information be sent back to the school nurse.
 - ◆ Vision /Hearing Screenings Grades K-5, 7,10
 - ◆ Postural Screening Grades 5-9 Inclusive (to screen for scoliosis)
 - ◆ Body Mass Index (BMI) screening grades 1,4,7 and 10
- ◆ **Medication administration & monitoring.**
- ◆ **Skilled nursing care and case management for students with special health care needs.**
- ◆ **Health education and information for students, staff and parents.**
- ◆ **Identify and provide assistance to families who have no health insurance or feel they are under insured.**

School Health Policies

◆ **Medication Policy:**

The Avon Public Schools medication policy complies with the state guidelines to ensure the health and safety of all students requiring medication in school.

All Medications prescription, as well as over the counter medications, require a doctor's order and a parental consent form to be on file in the nurse's office. These forms may be obtained from the school nurse or downloaded from the public school website. Doctor's orders expire at the end of each school year and a new one is required each September.

Parents should deliver medications directly to the nurse. Medications should not be sent to school with the child.

A copy of the Avon Public Schools medication administration policy is available from the Nurse Leader.

◆ **Emergency Information Form**

This form is distributed to every student on the 1st day of school. This information is essential should your child need to be dismissed from school. **The student will only be dismissed to people you list on the form.** Please try to identify people who will be available to pick up your child if the need arises. Please alert these individuals that you have listed them on the form.

Remember to notify the school of any changes.

◆ **Physical/Behavioral Health Concerns**

Please inform the school nurse of any special health considerations your child may have. This may be written on the emergency information form or you may call the nurse with any confidential information. The nurse will help plan any accommodations your child may need.

◆ **Communicable Diseases**

Communicable diseases such as Chicken Pox, Strep Throat, Scarlet Fever or head lice should be reported to the school nurse.