

Appomattox County Public Schools Health Services Program

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Welcome to a new school year! At Appomattox County Public Schools, the health, safety, and well-being of every student are our top priorities. Our Health Services Program is designed to support the physical, emotional, and health-related needs of all students so they can be safe, healthy, and ready to learn. The program is coordinated by a licensed professional school nurse as defined by the Appomattox County School Board.

Our school nurses provide a variety of health services, including:

- First aid and Basic Healthcare
- Emergency care and response
- Vision and Hearing Screenings
- Monitoring of health conditions and referrals as needed
- Documentation and maintenance of health information
- Support for students with chronic health conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, seizures, and allergies)

Please take a few minutes to review the important health information below to ensure the school clinic has the most current and accurate information regarding your child's health needs. Keeping this information updated helps us provide safe, timely, and effective care throughout the school day.

Medication Guidelines and Reminders

To ensure the safe administration of medications during the school day, please review the following guidelines:

All medications, including prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications, must be delivered to the school nurse or front office by a parent or guardian. Medications must be accompanied by the appropriate documentation, including:

- Student's name
- Medication name

- Dosage and schedule
- Reason for medication
- Completed Medication Administration Form

Prescription Medications

If your child needs to take prescription medication during the school day, the required **Permission for Medication Administration** form must be completed and signed by both the parent/guardian and the healthcare provider. A signed prescription from the healthcare provider may also be accepted in place of the provider's signature on the form.

Please note: The medication bottle alone does not meet Virginia state requirements for medication administration at school.

Thank you for helping us ensure medications are handled safely and appropriately while your child is in our care.

Health Information in PowerSchool

To help us provide the best possible care for your child, we ask for your partnership in keeping your child's health information complete and accurate. Current information allows us to better prepare for emergencies, support daily health needs, and ensure your student receives appropriate care while at school.

Please review and update your child's health information in PowerSchool before the start of the school year.

Please be sure the following information is complete and current:

- Your child's medical history, including any health conditions, allergies, medications, and other important health information
- Parent/guardian phone numbers and emergency contact information
- Permissions for over-the-counter (OTC) medications

If you would like your child to receive approved OTC medications during the school day, the required consent must be completed in PowerSchool. Without this documentation, clinic staff cannot administer OTC medications.

The more we know, the better we can support your child's health, safety, and success.

Chronic Health Condition Action Plans

If your child has a chronic health condition, please contact your school nurse as soon as possible to obtain and complete the required forms. These plans help ensure school staff are prepared to safely support your child's health needs during the school day.

The following conditions require specific documentation to be completed and kept on file in the school clinic:

- **Allergies requiring an epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen):** Allergy Action Plan
- **Asthma:** Asthma Action Plan
- **Diabetes:** Diabetes Medical Management Plan and blood glucose/health monitoring records
- **Food Allergies:** Allergy plan required for both the school nurse and cafeteria staff
- **Seizures:** Seizure Action Plan

Please work with your child's healthcare provider and school nurse to ensure all required forms are completed, updated, and submitted before the start of the school year or whenever there is a change in your child's health needs.

Vision and Hearing Screenings

In accordance with Virginia law, students will receive vision and hearing screenings at the following grade levels:

- Pre-K
- Kindergarten
- 3rd grade
- 7th grade
- 10th grade
- All new enrollees

A letter with additional information will be included in the beginning-of-the-year school packet for your review.

Scoliosis Information

Educational materials regarding scoliosis are distributed to parents/guardians of students in grades 5, 7, and 9.

Immunization Requirements

Virginia State Law requires all students to have current, age-appropriate immunizations in order to attend school. Please ensure your child's immunization records are up to date before the start of the school year.

If your child receives any new immunizations, please provide an updated copy of their immunization record to the school nurse as soon as possible.

For a complete list of required immunizations, please visit the Virginia Department of Health website.

Immunization Exemptions

- **Religious Exemptions:** Must be submitted on the appropriate form and notarized.
- **Medical Exemptions:** Must be signed by both the parent/guardian and a licensed physician.

Please contact your school nurse with any questions regarding immunization requirements, exemptions, or documentation.

Appomattox County Public Schools
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We are here to support your child's health and success throughout the school year. If you have questions, need assistance with health forms, or would like to discuss your child's medical needs, please do not hesitate to contact your school nurse.

We are always happy to help and look forward to partnering with you to keep your child healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

Sincerely,

NinaMarie O'Brien, RN
School Nurse Coordinator
Appomattox County Public Schools Health Services

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