

Clinic and Health Issues

Before starting a Fairfax County school, a student must provide documentation of having received specific vaccines (See registration information.) If the required vaccines have begun, but due to spacing of vaccines, cannot be completed prior to school start, the student may begin school and complete them at the appropriate timing. If they are not completed, the student will be excluded from school until they are obtained.

The school clinic is staffed by a full-time clinic aide from 7:15 a.m. to 2:10 p.m. each day. Her primary role is initial care of sick and injured students and facilitation of medications. She also assists the school with vision and hearing screening. If a student becomes ill at school and desires to leave school, clinic personnel will contact the student's parents for permission to leave school. If a parent cannot be reached, alternate contact may be made to the persons listed on the student's emergency care card. Students may not ride home with other students, but if parents or emergency contacts cannot pick up the student, they may call a taxi for the student. A student may stay in the clinic for a maximum time of 30 minutes before he or she must return to class or go home. A student must leave school if symptoms of a possibly contagious illness are present: oral temperature of 100 degrees or more, red/watery eyes, undiagnosed skin rashes, vomiting. The parent will be asked to take the child home and obtain a medical diagnosis before the student returns to school.

A public health nurse is the school nurse. She provides supervision of the clinic, serves as consult for health conditions, provides information to students, staff and parents, provides teaching of health procedures, and does follow-up of chronic and acute health conditions for school health plans. She is available to consult with parents and students about health issues, takes part in various school conferences and committees and can make home visits. She is assigned to more than one school and is not physically present in each school every day, but can always be accessed by clinic or school personnel.

Volunteers are welcome in many departments of the school, including the clinic. Volunteers must have a TB test before volunteering. Documentation of the test should be provided to the volunteer chairperson.

If an injury necessitates the use of an elevator, a student may obtain an electronic elevator card from the security office with a payment of a nominal refundable fee. Cards must be returned promptly when no longer needed, at which time the fee will be refunded.

Medication Policy

The policy for medications in the school is strict and specific. An overview of the policy follows:

1. **All medications require a form:** Medication, Anaphylaxis or Inhaler. Parents may sign the form for over-the-counter medications for headache, muscle ache, or menstrual cramps, as well as for antibiotics when accompanied by the prescription bottle.
2. All prescription medication (except antibiotics) requires a written physician order, as well as a parent signature. A physician may use office stationery or a prescription pad in lieu of Part II of the medication form if all the required information is included. Orders must be in lay language. Nicotine prescription patches require a physician's order. Prescription medication must be in a labeled bottle from the pharmacy.
3. Medication given on an "as needed" basis must state the exact interval between doses. Unacceptable terms are "repeat as necessary," "PRN."
4. If tablets are to be divided (half, quarter, etc.) they must be divided by the parent and supplied to the school already divided, with the medication labeled by the pharmacy.
5. Students are allowed to carry inhalers if the proper inhaler form is on file in the clinic. Other emergency medicines may be carried under certain pre-approved circumstances.
6. Prescription medication must be brought to school by a parent or guardian. High school students may carry over-the-counter Medication to and from the clinic before or after school, if forms have been signed appropriately.
7. Students are responsible for coming to the clinic for their medications. Medications can only be given within one-half hour before or one-half hour after the prescribed time.

More specific information on medication in the schools is available in the FCPS regulations or by calling the clinic at 703-913-3810 during the school day, or by calling the Public Health Nurse at 703-913-8934 or 703-913-3811.