

Dear Mercy Parents/Guardians,

As the **2022-2023** school year begins, we wanted to remind you of some important information on school health policies. Forms and required immunizations for the school year may be found on the [Nurse's web page](#) and may be sent to school via fax, email, or mail.

Physicals/Screening

The NYS Education Department requires current physical exams (health appraisals) to be on file for all new OLM students, students entering grades 7, 9, and 11, and when conducting an initial evaluation/reevaluation of a student with a known or suspected disability. Current physicals for the 2022-2023 school year need to be dated on or after September 1, 2021. Physical exams for working papers must be within 12 months to the date of the application. In addition, physical exams for sports participation must be within the 12 months prior to the start of the sport season. For additional information regarding the registration process for sports, please see the [Athletics page](#).

Immunization Requirements

All NYS schools now follow the ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) guidelines for immunizations. Students that do not have the vaccinations required by New York State Law Section 2164 will not be eligible to attend school. In addition to earlier required vaccines, students in grades 6 - 12 need the following:

- Students 11 years and older entering 6th grade need to have a tetanus booster (Tdap).
- Students entering 7th grade must have one meningitis vaccination.
- Students entering 12th grade must have a total of two doses of the meningitis vaccine.

Medication Rules

School nurses, by state law, may dispense medication to students with proper authorization from parents and their health care provider. Please use the [Medication Permission Form](#) found on the nurse's web page. If medication is to be given to a student during school hours, the following requirements must be met:

1. A written request must be sent by a physician/NP/PA indicating the frequency and dosage of the prescribed medication.
2. A written request to administer the medication as specified by a physician/NP/PA must be submitted and signed by the student's parent.
3. All medication must be brought in and picked up at the end of the school year by an adult. Any medication not picked up will be discarded on the last day of school.
4. The school nurse will keep the medication in locked storage.
5. The authorization must be updated at the start of the school year or when the dosage changes.

6. Any non-prescription medications (not provided as stock by the health office) must be in new and un-opened bottles/packaging.
7. All prescriptions must be in the original bottle and must have a picture of the student attached to them. Please ask your pharmacist for an extra empty bottle with current student and medication information to be used at school if needed.
8. Students may carry and self-administer certain emergency medications (such as inhalers and Epi-pens) with written permission from their health care provider and parent. A permission for independent use and carry of medication form can be found on the nurse's webpage, as well as on the Medication Permission Form. Either form is acceptable. These must also be updated each school year.

Emergency Care Plans

If your daughter has been diagnosed with a condition that requires emergency medications and/or special care (i.e., allergy requiring use of epi-pen, seizures, diabetes), please make sure an up-to-date care plan is sent in by your daughter's pediatrician or specialist. These need to be updated each school year.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding your daughter. Thank you for your cooperation with these important matters.

Mercy Health Office
585-288-7120 x314
nurse@mercyhs.com