

**BARRINGTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL
HEALTH
HANDBOOK**

DEPARTMENT OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND 02806

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BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Barrington, Rhode Island 02806
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The Barrington School Department employs six certified school nurse-teachers (CSNTs), one consulting physician, and one consulting dentist. Their primary responsibility is to ensure a healthy and safe environment for all students and staff.

The content of this handbook has been prepared under their guidance to assist you in understanding school health protocols regarding immunizations, physical examinations and the prevention and control of communicable diseases, as well as managing common health concerns in the school setting. Should you have any questions concerning your child's health, you are encouraged to contact the certified school nurse-teachers. They are a valuable resource to you and your children and are available to provide health information, assessments and referrals when needed. However, their expertise is not meant to be a replacement for treatment or follow-up care from your child's own pediatrician.

This School Health Handbook, along with school health forms and health information, can be located on the [Health Services](#) page found on the Barrington Public Schools District webpage, under Support Services.

IMMUNIZATIONS AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

In accordance with the Rhode Island Department of Health Rules and Regulations pertaining to *Immunization and Communicable Disease Testing in Preschool, School, Colleges or Universities (216-RICR-30-05-3)* each student upon initial entry to any preschool or school in Rhode Island, will provide documentation that the student has been immunized, as required. A student who is not in compliance with these requirements shall be excluded from attending preschool or school until the requirements are met, unless the student belongs in an exemption category or is in a waiting period between doses. A physician's certificate or school health record, with actual dates of immunization are the only acceptable documents of identification. **YOUR CHILD MAY NOT ENTER SCHOOL WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION.**

A student may be exempt from the immunization requirements described in the regulations for school entry if: a) A physician, a physician assistant, a certified registered nurse practitioner, or other licensed practitioner acting within his/her scope of practice signs the Rhode Island Department of Health's "Medical Immunization Exemption Certificate" attesting that the student is exempt from a specific vaccine because of medical reasons in accordance with ACIP recommendations; or b) A parent or guardian completes and signs RIDOH's "Religious Immunization Exemption Certificate" attesting that immunization conflicts with the tenets of their religious beliefs.

Every student who has not been previously enrolled in a school in this state is required to have a health examination completed by the student's primary care physician, a physician assistant under the physician's supervision, or a certified registered nurse practitioner. In addition, Barrington Public Schools requests an updated physical examination for any in state transfer students or re-enrolled students. A second general health examination and health clearance is required upon entry to seventh (7th) grade and a third health examination is required upon entry to twelfth (12th) grade. This examination may be conducted in the twelve **(12) months preceding the date of school entry, but if not, it must be completed within six (6) months of school entry.** A health history completed by the parent or guardian, is also required for all new students.

During the middle and high school years, students who participate in sports activities are required to have an annual physical examination by a licensed medical practitioner, as stated above. It must be the student's treating physician (not a parent) who completes this form to authorize clearance for sports. Our school physician can perform this service if needed.

Early detection and correction of vision problems helps children and youth prepare to learn in school. All children entering kindergarten are required by state law to have a **vision screening** done by their primary care provider prior to school entry.

The RI Department of Health **lead screening** entry requirement for schools, requires documentation from the child's healthcare provider that students under six (6) years of age have been screened for lead poisoning **for Pre-K and kindergarten entry**, or a certificate signed by the parent or guardian indicating blood testing is contrary to that person's beliefs.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT TO NOTIFY THE CERTIFIED SCHOOL NURSE-TEACHER OF ANY CHANGES IN THEIR CHILD'S HEALTH STATUS, ESPECIALLY ALLERGIC REACTIONS, MEDICATIONS, ASTHMA, ETC.

Specific immunization requirements for all grades and the RI School Physical Form can be found on Barrington Public Schools District Health Services webpage. The link is provided on page one of an electronic copy of this handbook. Applicable health forms are found in this location and can be downloaded. Health forms can also be obtained from your child's certified school nurse-teacher.

PROTOCOLS

Medications: A certified school nurse-teacher must administer medication(s) to student(s) within the public school setting. No lay person, other than a parent, may administer medication to a student in the school setting with the exception of administration of epinephrine, glucagon and medical marijuana as per state regulations. All medications, including prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) must be administered only in accordance with a written order from a licensed health care prescriber, and written permission by the parent/guardian. The certified school nurse-teacher will make arrangements with the parent/guardian and the student regarding the time they are to come to the health office for medication administration. Medication will be supplied and transported by the parent/guardian in the original labeled prescription container or the original over-the-counter packaging. At the secondary level, a student may deliver their own medication to school at the parent/guardian and certified school nurse-teacher's discretion.

Rhode Island Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs (216-RICR-20-10-4) permit students to self-carry and self-administer a day's supply of medication during an off-site school sponsored activity (e.g. field trip). This medication must be properly supplied by the parent. There are additional procedures required for overnight, off-site school sponsored field trips. An overnight medication authorization form will be supplied by the certified school nurse-teacher and must be completed by a licensed health care prescriber with written permission by the parent/guardian.

If age appropriate and medically indicated, students with medications such as rescue inhalers and epinephrine may self-carry and self-administer with written permission from both the prescribing physician and parent/guardian. The certified school nurse-teacher must be notified by the parent, so the appropriate school personnel can be made aware that the student will carry these medications on their person during school hours.

In accordance with RI state law, Barrington Public Schools has written protocols and standing orders available in the event of injuries and acute illnesses, including anaphylaxis and opioid overdose. As such, each school has epinephrine in stock to treat anaphylaxis that has not been previously medically identified. Naloxone is kept in stock at all elementary, middle and high schools for use on an individual who appears to be suffering an opioid-related drug overdose.

At the Middle School and High School level, ibuprofen, acetaminophen, Tums and Gelusil (antacid/anti-gas), can be administered by the certified school nurse-teacher with written parent/guardian permission.

At the Elementary level, if a student in grades K-5 is determined to have a fever above 101 degrees, acetaminophen or ibuprofen may be given by the certified school nurse-teacher after obtaining verbal consent by the parent/guardian, while awaiting pick up to go home. Acetaminophen/Ibuprofen can also be administered for orthodontic discomfort after obtaining verbal parent consent.

If students are treated with medication at home, it is important for the certified school nurse-teacher to be notified so that appropriate personnel can be made aware in case of untoward reactions during the school day.

Mobility Problems: If your child has sustained an injury that affects their mobility, call your building principal and certified school nurse-teacher. In most cases, the School Department can make temporary arrangements which will allow your child to participate in his/her classroom activities.

Excuse from Participation in School Activities: If your child must be excluded from activities, such as physical education classes, for more than 3 days, a **written excuse from your child's treating physician stating the diagnosis and dates of exclusion is necessary**. If the date to resume activity is not specified in the original excuse, a follow-up release stating when to resume activity is required from the physician.

Concussions: Barrington schools recognize the importance of identifying students who have suffered a concussion. Implementation of physical and cognitive rest surrounding school activities is vital to the student's recovery. If your child has been diagnosed with a concussion, please contact your child's school administrator and certified school nurse-teacher for assistance. Accommodations will be put in place per treating physician's orders.

Food Allergies: Barrington schools are committed to the safety and health of all students with food allergies. We abide by the *Rhode Island Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs* that pertain to food allergies. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the certified school nurse-teacher of severe food allergies so they can work with you and your child's physician to create an Emergency Health Care Plan and Individual Health Care Plan to make accommodations for your child.

Student Screenings: The School Department will conduct vision, hearing and dental screenings. Every student must be given a vision screening upon entry to school and in the first (1st), second (2nd), third (3rd), fourth (4th), fifth (5th), seventh (7th) and ninth (9th) grades. Students in pre-kindergarten, first, second and third grades and any student(s) new to a school without a prior record of a hearing screening must be given a hearing screening. Dental screenings are required for every student who has not been previously enrolled in a public or non-public school in this state. Thereafter, students will be screened annually by a licensed dentist, dental hygienist, in kindergarten through fifth (5th) grade and must be screened at least once between the sixth (6th) and tenth (10th) grades. Students who are screened by private dentists/dental hygienists who provide written documentation of the screenings can be exempt.

Annual scoliosis screening, conducted by a certified school-nurse teacher, is required for students in grades six (6) through eight (8) pursuant to RI Gen. laws 16-21-10. The parent of any student may have the scoliosis screening conducted by a private physician. When results are made available to the school, the student will be exempt from the scoliosis screening requirement.

School screenings, by their very nature, are a relatively quick process, and are meant to identify potential problems that may need more comprehensive follow up with your child's own pediatrician, medical or dental professionals. There will be notification regarding all school screenings, and written notification to the parent/guardian when follow up is recommended as a result of your child's screening outcome. If for some reason you choose not to have your child participate, please give written notification to the certified school nurse-teacher.

CONTAGIOUS CONDITIONS

Note: *The following list is not all inclusive, but reviews protocols for some of the more commonly seen conditions in school age children.*

Chicken Pox/Shingles: Students will be excluded from school until all vesicles and scabs are dry. This usually takes about one week from the onset of the rash.

Cold/cough Symptoms: If your child is experiencing discomfort that would interfere with their school performance, please keep them home until they are able to resume normal activity. If there is a prolonged cough with or without a fever, consult your child's pediatrician. *****Cough is a COVID-19 symptom and protocol for testing/isolation may apply.**

Conjunctivitis (Pink-Eye): This condition is easily spread by direct contact with discharge from the infected eye(s). Students will be excluded when eyes are inflamed and draining and will require a doctor's note to return to school. If student is contagious and medication is prescribed, students may return to school **after 24 hours** of antibiotic therapy.

COVID-19: Symptoms such as fever or chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat, runny nose or congestion, headache, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or cough may indicate COVID-19 infection. **Please refer to RIDOH COVID-19 requirements for testing and isolation protocol.**

Fever: If your child's temperature is **100 degrees or higher** they should remain at home until fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

Head Lice (Pediculosis): Outbreaks are possible wherever children gather. Students diagnosed with live head lice do not need to be sent home early from school. They can go home at the end of the day and return to class after getting treated. Your child will be checked by the certified school nurse-teacher upon return to school.

Impetigo: This is a common skin infection caused by bacteria. Lesions (sores) appear primarily around the nose and mouth, but may present elsewhere on the body. Students may return after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment and lesions are dry.

Rashes: A suspicious skin rash with or without a fever, should be evaluated by your child's pediatrician.

Sore Throat/Strep Throat: A sore throat in conjunction with swollen glands may indicate strep throat. A fever is not always present with strep throat. Other symptoms may include a headache and/or upset stomach. A minor sore throat is fairly common, but a child with strep throat needs medical attention and may return to school **after 24 hours** of antibiotic therapy. *****Sore throat is a COVID-19 symptom and protocol for testing/isolation may apply.**

Vomiting/Diarrhea: A child with vomiting and/or diarrhea should be kept at home until symptoms have improved and the child is able to keep down food and liquid. Students may return when they have been free of vomiting/diarrhea symptoms for at least 24 hours.

*****Vomiting/Diarrhea are COVID-19 symptoms and protocol for testing/isolation may apply.**

We encourage you to speak to your child's certified school nurse-teacher for guidance, if you are unsure when your child should return to school following any contagious illness or medical issue.