

2019 School Health Update December 2019

- 1) Welcome to Ed Woods BSN
 - a. Ed will be the school nurse consultant for the SC and SE districts
 - b. Ed will be in orientation for the next few months
 - i. Continue to submit questions to your School Health Nurse Consultant Sheri Mountz smountz@pa.gov for the NE, SE, NC districts and Bill Deemer wdeemer@pa.gov for the SC, NW, SW districts
 - c. Ed has been with the Department of Health since 2000
- 2) Please read the school health updates and share with your colleagues
 - a. If you are not receiving the updates, please email your county's School Health Nurse Consultant with your email address and the county in which you work
 - b. Previous updates and PowerPoint presentations are on the school health website
 - i. www.health.state.pa.us/schoolhealth
 - ii. We strive to make the website a valuable resource
 - iii. Answers to most questions can be found on the website
 - iv. The website is a helpful tool to new school nurses and as a refresher to experienced school nurses
 - c. School Health may not provide advice on legal, personnel, contractual, or financial issues
- 3) Provision of School Health Services to Private/Non-public Schools
 - a. In 1962, the legislature passed the School Nurse Act. This act was considered revolutionary at the time because it required equitable services be provided to students, whether they attended public or non-public schools. This law remains in effect today as Section 1402(a.1) of the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949 (the law)
 - i. Section 1401 Definitions: "Children of school age" or "child of school age" means every child attending or who should attend an elementary grade or high school, either public or private, within the Commonwealth and children who are attending a kindergarten which is an integral part of a local school district.
 - b. Section 23.51 of the Pa Code- regulation states "A child in private, parochial and public schools shall be provided with school nurse services in the school which the child attends"
 - c. Section 23.52 of the Pa Code- regulation states "The school nurse services shall be provided through the public school system and the administration of this service shall be the responsibility of the public school administrator in consultation, as needed, with the private or parochial school administrator"
- 4) We would like to reiterate this previous notification: Do not send Immunization or Communicable disease questions to the Division of School Health. These issues are under a separate Debutate, Bureau and Division. These questions must be sent to your state health center, your local county health department, your immunization consultant or the Division of Immunizations (717-787-5681)
 - a. School immunization information can be found at <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/immunizations/Pages/School.aspx>
 - b. Please refer to the February 2019 School Health update for contact information for other offices/bureaus/divisions
- 5) Dental Hygiene Services Program (DHSP)
 - a. A school that implements a DHSP is still required to have a school dentist on record and be available for consultation and to sign off on the program plan (see the February 2019 update for more guidance on implementing a DHSP)
 - b. A school dental hygienist must be certified by the Pa Department of Education
- 6) Continuous Glucose Monitoring
 - a. It is not the nurse's responsibility to monitor a student's glucose level continuously
 - i. The monitoring frequency during school hours should be ordered by the student's provider not by the parent
 - ii. It is recommended that a nurse's personal phone not be used due to violating Protected Health Information
 - b. Confirm out of range levels via a manual blood sampling in case the monitor is malfunctioning
- 7) Fragrances and essential oils
 - a. The Division of School Health does not recommend the use of fragrances and essential oils, as many staff and students have allergies or sensitivities
 - b. Fragrance sensitivity may be considered a disability for some people under the ADA
 - c. Schools that choose to allow the use of these substances must develop policies for their use

- d. If a school does allow their use, a healthcare provider order and parental permission is required
 - e. These products are treated as any other over the counter product
 - f. Students may not self carry these products, the nurse should document each use in the medication log as with all meds
 - g. Medications, herbs, supplements, homeopathic remedies... should only be taken at school if absolutely necessary
 - h. See pages 21-22 of the medication manual for more guidance on the use of these products
- 8) CPR/AED training for school personnel and students falls under the responsibility of the Pa Dept of Education
- a. <https://www.education.pa.gov/Teachers%20-%20Administrators/School%20Services/Pages/AED-Program.aspx>
 - b. Public School Code: Article XII. Certification of Teachers Section 1205.4. CPR Instruction.--(a) School entities shall be required to offer a cardiopulmonary resuscitation training (CPR) class on school premises at least once every three years. The course shall be offered as an option to all employes of the school entity
 - c. Assure that two (2) or more persons assigned to the location where the automatic external defibrillator will be primarily housed are trained
 - d. A school entity shall have at each school one person certified in the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation during regular school hours when school is in session and students are present
 - e. Act 7 of 2019, formerly Senate Bill 115, which will require the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to create potentially life-saving curriculum for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for students
 - i. <https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Education-Details.aspx?newsid=663>
 - f. CPR requirements for Certified School Nurses
 - i. <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/AED-CPR.aspx>
- 9) TB testing for school employees – shortage of skin testing antigen
- a. <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/Tuberculosis.aspx>
 - b. It is advised that school staff who need TB testing be given the interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) blood test in lieu of the skin test until any shortage is over
 - i. IGRA testing is now the preferred method of TB screening according to the CDC
 - c. The updated “School Personnel Health Record” form now includes the results for IGRA
- 10) Bloodborne Pathogen (BBP) information for schools can be found on the school health Environmental Issues web page
- a. <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/Environmental.aspx> this page has been updated with the following information on BBP
 - i. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-101/default.html> (Safety Checklist Program for Schools)
 - ii. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/occupations.html>
- 11) Cyber Charter Schools are to meet the same screening and exam requirements as school districts, brick and mortar charter schools and full-time Career and Technical Centers (CTC)
- a. Some suggestions to help meet the requirements are to schedule screenings/exams during times those students are on campus or attending events such as enrollment, standardized testing, if attends any on campus classes, assemblies, sporting events, clubs, intramural activities...
- 12) Medication Self-Administration (Inhalers, Epinephrine auto-injectors, Diabetes meds if Act 86 is fully implemented)
- a. Whenever a student is permitted to self-administer medications, they must notify the nurse each time
 - b. The school should have policies and procedures in place
 - c. There needs to be parental and healthcare provider approval and a valid provider order
 - d. The right to self-administer may be revoked if the student is not compliant
- 13) School Nurse Certification
- a. Department of Education’s approved school nurse certification programs
 - i. <https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Certification/BecomeAnEducator/Pages/ACPAll.aspx>
 - b. The Department of Education’s requirements to become a CSN
 - i. <https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Certification/Pages/default.aspx>
 - c. You can reach the Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality at 717-PA-TEACH (728-3224) or 717-787-3356 or by clicking [Chat with certification staff](#).

14) Nursing Services Staffing:

- a. **Certified School Nurse (CSN)** is the only licensed registered nurse who may manage and direct the care of a caseload of students in Pennsylvania. The CSN is at all times responsible for the caseload while students are under school jurisdiction. There are no set number of hours/days that the CSN is required to be physically present in his/her assigned (public/private) buildings but must rotate through the buildings on a “regular” basis. “Regular” depends on the health needs of the students in that building. The CSN must spend enough time in each building to be totally familiar with the students’ health issues, treatments, medications, maintaining health records, etc. The CSN is also responsible for coordinating the care of the student caseload in such matters as, developing plans of care, communicating with parents regarding concerns, being part of teams (such as Student Assistance, IEP, 504s), etc. Schools may hire supplemental nurses (LPNs or non-certified RNs) to assist the CSN. The supplemental staff may provide daily care of students and assist with completion of mandated screens and exams, as their licensure allows. The CSN needs to be “on duty” and be physically present or available by phone to provide the supplemental staff nurse with direction/assistance whenever needed
- i. Only a CSN may substitute for another CSN
 - ii. **Section 1401.** Definitions - As used in this article-- (8) "School nurse" means a licensed registered nurse properly certificated by the Superintendent of Public Instruction as a school nurse who is employed by a school district ...
 - iii. **Section 1402.** Health Services - (a.1) Every child of school age shall be provided with school nurse services...
 - iv. **Section 1410.** Employment of School Health Personnel - (a)... all school districts ... shall employ one or more school nurses ...
 - v. **Section 1421.** Powers and Duties of the Secretary of Health and of the Superintendent of Public Instruction; Rules and Regulations - ... Approve certification of school nurses and dental hygienists for employment by a school district or joint school board and administer and direct their services and program: Provided, That the services of school nurses and dental hygienists shall be utilized exclusively in connection with medical and dental examinations and associated health activities
 - vi. **23.34. School nurses** - The duties of school nurses shall be those assigned by the school district or joint school board which are **exclusively connected with medical and dental school health activities**. The technical content of the duties of the nurse shall be those prescribed by the Department of Health
- b. **Supplemental staff nurses (LPNs or non-certified RNs)** may be hired to assist the CSN to provide daily care of students and assist with completion of mandated screens and exams, as their licensure allows
- i. The CSN needs to be “on duty” and be physically present or available by phone to provide the supplemental staff nurse with direction/assistance whenever needed.
 - ii. The **noncertified RN may not carry a caseload assignment** and functions in the school setting under the CSN who serves as the RN’s team leader and case manager
 - iii. If a CSN is absent and a substitute is a supplemental licensed nurse covering the daily needs, the caseload of the absent CSNs’ assignment must be temporarily redistributed so the supplemental nurse has a CSN to report to and receive direction from
 - iv. The non-certified RN lacks the education that provides the concepts, framework, applications and issues unique to school based health care delivery
 - v. An **LPN** may be used in the school but per their licensure **may not function independently**
 1. **21.141. Definitions Practice of practical nursing**—The performance of selected nursing acts in the care of the ill, injured or infirm under the direction of a licensed professional nurse, a licensed physician or a licensed dentist which do not require the specialized skill, judgment and knowledge required in professional nursing. Example: there is no assessment language in the license
- c. **Pa Department of Education Certification Staffing Policy Guidelines (CSPGs)**
- i. <https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Certification/Staffing%20Guidelines/Pages/default.aspx>
 - ii. **CSPG75 Certification Staffing Assignment Dental Hygienist (PK-12)** A dental hygienist must be licensed by the State Dental Council and Examining Board and be certified as a School Dental Hygienist by the Pennsylvania Department of Education
 - iii. **CSPG 80 School Nurse (PK-12)** ... When a school district employs an individual in the job title “school nurse,” this person must be a certified School Nurse whether employed as a professional or temporary professional...
 - iv. **CSPG 95 Principal (Kindergarten-12)** ... Supervision and direction of certified and non-certified staff persons required for school operation exclusive of directing health services controlled by the Nurse Practice Act...
 - v. **CSPG 101 Utilization of Paraprofessional Staff** ... Paraprofessionals serving as health room aides cannot be directed to engage in health-related activities reserved exclusively for licensed professionals and controlled by the Nurse Practice Act, or other medically related laws