



School Health Update October 2021

First and foremost, The Division of School Health would like to express their sincere gratitude to all for your endurance, perseverance, professionalism, positivity, patience, and care provided throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. With much appreciation and respect to all.

Chief of the Division of School Health, Colleen Schultz

School Health Nurse Consultants

- a. Ed Woods – SC and SE edwoods@pa.gov (717) 787-8092
- b. Bill Deemer – SW and NW wdeemer@pa.gov (724) 832-5315
- c. Sheri Mountz – NC and NE smountz@pa.gov (570) 892-4080

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.

1) COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for School Nurses

The **attached** COVID Fact Sheets have been added to the School Health website:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/School%20Health.aspx>

In addition, several resources have been added to PDE's [DOH Back to School Resources](#) website:

[Community Protection Through Isolation and Quarantine](#), [PA Isolation Guide](#), [IQBasicsFactSheet.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#), and [Vaccine Fact Sheet.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#)

PDE "What's New"

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/CDCGuidanceInformation/Pages/default.aspx>

2) Mask Exemption Information

It is recommended that a medical mask exemption be provided by a licensed healthcare provider, the same as medications/treatments, etc.

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/messages/September2021/Pages/September10.aspx>

Relatedly, this Order is not a mask optional policy. Any school entity simply permitting a parent's sign-off without evidence that the student has a medical or mental health condition or disability that precludes the wearing of a face covering is not in compliance with the Order. Under the Order, and as set forth in [PDE's Answers to FAQs](#), school entities must require all individuals, two years of age and older, to wear face coverings unless the individual has a medical or mental health condition or disability that precludes the wearing of a face covering. In accordance with Section 3 of the Order, before an individual is excepted from the Order, all alternatives to a face covering, including a face shield, are to be exhausted. It is recommended that any exception be in accordance with eligibility under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA for such medical or mental health condition or disability. School entities should follow their established processes for determining student eligibility under those laws, including any medical documentation that they would normally require. There are exceptions to the Order; however, a parent's opposition to the Order is not one of them.

3) Covid Home Tests

The acceptance of home tests is at the school's discretion. The tests should be FDA approved. Binax cards are the most commonly used, which are FDA approved. Some schools have made it their policy to not accept home tests because their reliability isn't as good when compared to a PCR. Additionally, some schools have made it their policy to require a picture of the test result. This would be a discussion to have with your school.

4) 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

5) Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM)

- a. It is not the nurse's responsibility to monitor a student's glucose level continuously
 - i. The monitoring frequency during school hours needs to be ordered by the student's provider not by the parent
- b. Confirm out of range levels via a manual blood sampling in case the monitor is malfunctioning

Diabetes Manual/Level 3 PPT has been updated to include training on glucagon nasal spray and pre-filled auto injector

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/Diabetes.aspx>

6) Act 122 of 2020: Vision screening

New vision screening guidelines will go into effect **after** regulations are promulgated.

[House Bill 1342](#)

(2) The Advisory Health Board shall promulgate regulations to establish vision screening standards based on instrument based vision screening technologies or visual acuity testing, taking into consideration national guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics AND AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY AND STRABISMUS.

(e) This section shall apply to school years beginning after the regulations are promulgated by the Advisory Health Board under subsection (a)(2).



*May the world be kind to you,
and may your own thoughts be gentle upon yourself.
- Jonathan Lockwood Huie*