

## Division of School Health COVID-19 FAQ's

### SCHOOL RE-ENTRY/PPE GUIDANCE

Can you let us know when you anticipate that we will receive guidance for re-entry plan specifics?

Guidance will be issued once there is a better sense of when schools may re-open and will be based upon the most current CDC guidelines, research and evidence-based practices available at that time. Please refer to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html> for current mitigation ideas from the CDC. Please also see the following: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools-faq.html>

Will attendance guidelines be issued once in person school instruction resumes? Will there be guidelines for ADM and potential school closure?

This guidance would come from the Department of Education.

Will schools have the opportunity to receive PPE/supplies to help curb the spread of COVID-19 when we do return?

At this time, there are no current plans to provide PPE for schools.

Will there be a template notification letter for schools in the event of COVID-19 positive cases when schools resume in-person learning next school year?

School Health will seek guidance from the Bureau of Communicable Disease and Epidemiology.

### SHARRS REPORTING

SHARRS reports from 18-19 SY are being processed in the order received. Expect that payments may be delayed due to the COVID-19 response.

**\*Please note that the following recommendations only apply to the 2019-2020 SHARRS report**

For School Year 19-20, are we to continue to do SHARRS report as usual, just use what we have to the date we closed?

Correct. Please put a notation on the ADM page in SHARRS regarding any issues encountered with completing school physicals, dentals and screenings and note if the issues were a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

How should we document in SHARRS if screenings and exams were unable to be completed due to school closure?

Should school exams/screenings be cancelled/unable to be completed due to the closure of schools, please note it in the comments box on the ADM page in SHARRS.

## **IMMUNIZATIONS**

\*Immunization questions can be directed to the Division of Immunizations 717-787-5681.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/immunizations/Pages/Immunizations.aspx>

Seniors for the 20-21 school year are to have their 2nd meningococcal vaccine. Will there be any extension or change in that? Should letters be sent out now for those who don't have it?

This process is managed through the Division of Immunizations. At this point, there have been no changes to the immunization requirements. If this changes, notification will be sent out via email and PENN\*LINK on behalf of the Division of Immunizations.

For immunizations that are not compliant nor complete due to COVID 19, and students are unable to receive their shots this spring or summer for the fall. Will students be allowed to start back to school without adhering to the five-day grace period?

This guidance will come from the Division of Immunizations. To date, the Division of School Health is not aware of any changes to current immunization guidelines or dates. As we receive additional information and guidance from Division of Immunizations, that will be communicated to school nurses through email and PENN\*LINK.

## **SCHOOL HEALTH SCREENINGS AND EXAMS**

Should school districts still send out letters for notification of physical and dental exams required this school year for K,3,6,7 and 11 like we normally do?

This would be a local level decision in conjunction with school district administrators.

Should BMI Letters be sent out for growth screenings completed for 19-20 SY?

While schools are required to send out letters to parents if growth screenings were completed, due to the current circumstances with COVID-19 this may not be feasible. Nurses should use their judgement and discretion to determine whether they have the capacity to distribute BMI letters for completed screenings.

Please refer to the Growth Screening Guidelines found on the School Health website:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/Mandated-School-Health-Programs.aspx>

Additional guidance may also be found in the PA School Code:

*Public School Code*

*Section 1406. Recommendations. —*

*(a) Recommendations as to medical, surgical or dental care shall be sent to each parent or guardian and to the family physician or family dentist on forms prepared or approved by the Secretary of Health with instructions to the parent or guardian to consult the family physician or family dentist and to notify the school authorities of the action taken with respect to the recommendations.*