

Medications and Prescriptions

Parents and legal guardians have the primary responsibility for ensuring the health of their children. We recommend all medications be given at home, but realize the health and well-being of some children require that they receive medication during school hours. When it is necessary to administer medication during school hours, the student's parent, legal guardian or authorized representative must deliver all prescription and non-prescription medication and the completed Authorization for Administration of Prescription/Non-Prescription Form to the school nurse.

Medication Administration During School Hours

- As per PA Code, we cannot store medications between the end of ESY and the start of the next academic year.
- Prior to the start of the Extended School Year (ESY) program, the parent, legal guardian or authorized representative must make arrangements with the school nurse to deliver the medication (if needed) and review instructions.
- Provide all medication in the original package. Prescription medications must be in the original labeled prescription bottle with the student's name, the date, the physician's name, clear directions for administration and expiration date of medication.
- Medications that are more than one year old or are past the expiration date will not be administered.
- Provide no more than a 30-day supply of the medication at a time.
- All controlled medication should have the number of pills being sent to school marked on the outside label of the bottle or package. The school nurse will keep a written record of the number of pills sent and the date received.
- Students shall not carry or possess prescription or non-prescription medication on school property or at any school-sponsored activity unless the school nurse grants permission.
- High School- and VTC-aged students are permitted to carry asthma rescue inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors ordered by their licensed provider, if authorized by their parents or legal guardians and ordering physician and the student demonstrates administration competency to the school nurse.
- Parents or legal guardians are responsible for maintaining the necessary supply of medication and any necessary medical equipment.

Non-Prescription Medications

- If parents or legal guardians provide written consent via the Parent Portal/Verifications/Authorizations, the school nurse will provide non-prescription pain-relief medication to students during school hours to address minor discomfort or the onset of fever.
- If parents or legal guardians provide written consent via the Parent Portal/Verifications/Authorizations, the school nurse can provide: Acetaminophen (Tylenol), Ibuprofen (Advil), Diphenhydramine (Benadryl - all forms), Antacid (Tums), insect sting swabs, eyewash solution, lubricating eye drops, petroleum jelly, non-antibiotic first aid cream and Pramoxine (Caladryl).

All discontinued or outdated medications will be returned to the parent or legal guardian immediately. Medications cannot be stored in the nurse's office between the end of ESY and start of the school year. At the end of ESY, all unused medications will be returned to the parent or legal guardian. If the parent or legal guardian does not come to school to retrieve the medication, we will dispose of the medication and document the disposal. If a parent or guardian is unable to pick up the medication, please contact the school nurse as soon as possible to make arrangements for the medication to be returned. New medications and a new Authorization for Administration of Prescription/Non-Prescription Form will need to be submitted to the school nurse at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. If you have any questions, please contact nursing@vfes.net.