

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The 2021-2022 Student-Parent/Guardian Handbook sets forth the scholar's health policies and procedures as follows.

SCHOOL NURSE

Memphis Street Academy Charter School has a registered professional nurse who is responsible for handling a variety of student health concerns, promoting student health, and for maintaining all medical records on each student. The nurse coordinates and conducts all mandated screenings and health programs, and works directly with students to provide care and to give guidance and educational support to students in health-related matters. Parents/guardians and students are asked to contact the school nurse regarding any special health problems.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, he or she should ask the teacher for a pass to go to the nurse's office. The nurse will determine what care procedure will be followed.

The school nurse will:

1. Provide first aid in emergencies. The nurse will notify parents/ guardians when a student has been hurt or suddenly becomes seriously ill and needs immediate care from a doctor and/or hospital.
2. Notify parents/guardians when a student can no longer remain in class and needs to be taken home because of injury, illness or a communicable condition, such as the following: fever of 100.4 or more, suspected contagious disease, vomiting, diarrhea, head lice, cannot remain comfortably in class, and undetermined rash.

IMMUNIZATIONS

The Pennsylvania Public School Code now requires all public schools, including charter schools, to determine that a student has been immunized in accordance with state law prior to admission to school. The school nurse is responsible to review each student's immunization records to ensure that he or she meets state requirements.

A student whose parent or guardian fails to provide complete and accurate immunization records to the school nurse risks exclusion from school until state immunization requirements are met.

STUDENTS IN ALL GRADES (K-8) NEED THE FOLLOWING VACCINES:

4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (usually given as DTP or DTaP or DT or Td) (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday)

4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given, but a 4th dose is unnecessary if the 3rd dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least 6 months after the previous dose)

2 doses of measles (usually given as MMR)

- 2 doses of mumps (usually given as MMR)
- 2 doses of rubella (German Measles) (usually given as MMR)
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (Chickenpox) or evidence of immunity

STUDENTS ENTERING 7TH GRADE NEED THE FOLLOWING VACCINES:

1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) on the first day of 7th grade

1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MVC) on the first day of 7th grade

On the **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**, unless a student has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a student must have had at least one dose of the above vaccinations or risk exclusion. If a student does not have all the doses listed above, needs additional doses, and the next dose is medically appropriate, the student must receive that dose within the first five (5) days of school or risk exclusion. If the next dose is not the final dose of the series, the student must also provide a medical plan within the first five days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion. The medical plan must be followed or the student may face exclusion from school.

The school nurse will review the student's immunizations to verify the student meets the standards set by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. If a student's immunization records do not meet state requirements, the student will not be permitted to attend school.

In the event that immunization is against a student's religious beliefs or a parent has a strong moral or ethical conviction against immunization, the parent must provide the school nurse with a written statement stating the reason for the objection. If immunization is not medically advisable at a particular time, a physician must sign the "Statement of Exemption to Immunization Law" form. **If a student is exempt from immunization, he or she may be excluded from school during an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease.**

It is the school nurse's responsibility to ensure that all students have been properly immunized in accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Health regulations. In the event that a student is missing the appropriate records or does not have up-to-date immunizations, the school nurse will send a letter home to notify the parent or guardian. If the up-to-date immunization records are not brought to the school within the first 5 days of school and/or there is no documentation to support that a student received the out-of-date immunizations, the student may be excluded from school.

State law requires charter schools to provide the following health services for students who attend or who should attend an elementary, grade, or high school:

Mandated School Health Services

SERVICE	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Notes
School Nurse Services	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Maintenance of Health Record	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Immunization Assessment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Medical Examination	*	*					X			X				*Required on original entry- K or 1st grade
Dental Examination	*	*		X				X						*Required on original entry- K or 1st grade
Growth Screen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Hearing Screen	X	X	X	X				X				X		
Scoliosis Screen							X	X						6th grade physical may be used in lieu of 6th grade screen

Tuberculin Test	*	*									X				*Required on original entry- K or 1st grade. Unless approved to discontinue
Vision Screen-Far Visual Acuity Test	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Vision Screen-Near Visual Acuity Test	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Vision Screen-Convex Lens Test (Plus Lens)		X													1st grade students meeting criteria & new students (any grade) not previously screened
Vision Screen-Color Vision Test		*	*												*1st or 2nd grade & new students (any grade) not previously screened
Vision Screen-Stereo/Depth Perception Test		*	*												*1st or 2nd grade & new students (any grade) not previously screened

State law requires students to have updated health and dental examinations upon entering a school for the first time and at the following intervals:

- Updated dental assessments when starting 3rd and 7th grades
- Updated health assessments when starting 6th and 9th grades

Required medical and dental examinations and immunizations are oftentimes performed by the student's primary care provider. If so, the provider may use the school-provided evaluation forms, which are PA Department of Health (DOH)-approved. The school will accept the provider's own form, as long as comparable to the DOH-approved form.

If assistance is needed to fulfill medical requirements for enrollment and continued attendance, then it is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to notify the Principal of such need. Otherwise, it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to make sure their students have fulfilled the necessary requirements for enrollment and continued attendance.

A doctor's authorization also is required for any of the following:

- Any medication given;
- Any controlled drug;
- Emergency medication kept on hand; i.e., inhalers, EpiPens (physician instructions required); and
- Annual update of doctor's authorization for long-term care.

Upon return to school after major surgery or hospitalization, a physician's release must be presented to the school nurse, specifying any necessary restrictions or concerns.

When a student is excused from participation in physical education for medical reasons, he/she must provide the school nurse with a written excuse from a doctor or his or her parent/guardian.

Students participating in school-sponsored athletic programs must complete a physical examination every year of participation.

We recommend that you submit a copy of updated health and dental assessments every year after your student sees his or her physician and/or dentist, so that the school nurse will have current information.

Please contact the school office to obtain the necessary health forms. Your student's health provider must complete the forms, which may be returned to the school nurse in person or by mail or fax.

MEDICATION

Students are not allowed to bring any kind of prescription or over-the-counter medication to school, except for management of Asthma, Diabetes or severe allergic reactions (see below for additional

information about these exceptions). All medications should, if possible, be given by the parent/guardian at home.

In the event that medication must be administered at school, a physician must have prescribed the medication, and arrangements must be made through the school nurse's office for the school nurse to administer the medication. The medication must be furnished by the parent/guardian, in the original container and be properly labeled, at a meeting with the school nurse. The parent/guardian and the nurse will verify the medication and the written order. The medication will be counted and documented. The parent/guardian must have the form for medication administration completed by the student's healthcare provider.

ASTHMA INHALER

Students with asthma should bring an inhaler prescribed by their doctor to school each day in accordance with Act 187. This law permits students who, with a physician's diagnosis of asthma, medication orders, parental permission, and demonstrable responsible behavior, to carry and self-administer their own medication via an asthma inhaler. In this situation, the school nurse will communicate the exception in writing to the appropriate staff members, so they are aware that a particular student is permitted to carry his/her inhaler. As supported above, exceptions also must be approved by the CEO, though the school nurse may make an exception on a temporary basis when unusual circumstances exist.

Memphis Street Academy is relieved of any responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication, and bears no responsibility for ensuring that the medication is taken.

As part of responsible behavior, the student must notify a staff member as soon as breathing becomes difficult, and following each use of the inhaler, the student must notify the school nurse.

The student is prohibited from making medication or any medical equipment available to other students. Any student who does so will be in violation of, and therefore subject to discipline under, the Student Code of Conduct. Violation of school policy and procedures also may result in restriction of the student's privilege to self-administer medication or equipment.

SELF MONITORING AND/OR MANAGEMENT OF DIABETES

Memphis Street Academy recognizes that a number of students may have medically certified diabetes requiring medication, equipment or machinery to be administered during school hours in order to maintain health and to function in the school setting.

Diabetic students may possess on their persons, including bookbags and handbags, all necessary supplies, equipment and prescribed medication to perform self-monitoring and treatment.

Upon written consent of a student's parent/guardian, the student with diabetes will be permitted to perform blood glucose checks, treat hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, and otherwise attend to the care and management of his or her diabetes in the classroom, in any area of the school or school grounds, and at any school-related activity. The consent form must include a statement from the treating physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant indicating that the

student has successfully demonstrated capability of independent monitoring and responsible behavior in self-administering treatment or prescribed medication.

Memphis Street Academy is relieved of any responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication, and bears no responsibility for ensuring that the medication is taken.

As part of responsible behavior, the student must notify the school nurse following each use of medication or equipment for the student's diabetes-related condition.

The student is prohibited from making medication or any medical equipment available to other students. Any student who does so will be in violation of, and therefore subject to discipline under, the Student Code of Conduct. Violation of school policy and procedures also may result in restriction of the student's privilege to self-administer medication or equipment.

SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTIONS

Upon written consent of a student's parent/guardian, a student at risk for severe and life-threatening allergic reaction will be permitted to carry and self-administer Epipen or other epinephrine auto injector. The consent form must include a statement from the treating physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant indicating that the student has successfully demonstrated capability of independent monitoring and responsible behavior in self-administering treatment or prescribed medication.

Parents/guardians of students with severe allergies are requested to provide the school nurse with an extra Epipen or other epinephrine auto injector in case of an emergency. The School is under no obligation to maintain a supply of Epipens or other epinephrine auto injectors, and is relieved of any responsibility if a student's parent/guardian has not provided the school nurse with an extra Epipen or other epinephrine auto injector for his or her student, or for the benefits or consequences of self-administration thereof, and bears no responsibility.

As part of responsible behavior, the student must notify the school nurse following each use of an Epipen or other epinephrine auto injector.

The student is prohibited from making the Epipen or other epinephrine auto injector available to other students. Any student who does so will be in violation of, and therefore subject to discipline under, the Student Code of Conduct. Violation of school policy and procedures also may result in restriction of the student's privilege to self-administer medication or equipment.

ILLNESS OR INFECTIOUS CONDITION

A student may not attend school if any of the following symptoms are present or suspected by a physician or the school nurse:

- Fever: Students should remain home or be sent home if they have above-normal temperature.

- Conjunctivitis (“pink eye”): A student may return only after discharge discontinues and 24 hours of treatment is completed.
- Rashes: Unidentified rashes must be diagnosed by a health care provider.
- Impetigo: Your student must be seen by a health care provider.
- Diarrhea: The student experiences diarrhea two days in a row or three times in one day.
- Vomiting: The student experiences repeated forceful evacuation with other symptoms or the student’s inability to eat.
- Lice (see below).
- Ringworm (see below).
- Any other contagious condition: measles, chickenpox, mumps, whooping cough, or streptococcal infections that are still contagious.

In addition, a student shall not attend school if he or she is experiencing any unusual discomfort such as an earache or other pain that causes the student to cry or to experience significant pain.

Cooperation of parents/guardians with this policy, as mandated by state law, will minimize the number of days that students and staff are sick, thus helping to maintain a healthy learning environment.

Source: 28 Pa Code §§ 27.71 - 27.73

LICE AND RINGWORM

Title 28, Chapter 27 of the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s Regulations of Communicable and Non-Communicable Disease, governs the exclusion from school and readmitting to school students regarding infectious conditions such as lice and ringworm. If a student has been so diagnosed by a physician or is under such suspicion by the school nurse, the student will be excluded from school for the period of time until he or she is judged noninfectious by the school nurse or by the student's physician.

A student with lice should be treated with a lice shampoo, and the school nurse must be notified of appropriate treatment.

A student with ringworm of the body must be treated with an antifungal ointment and covered. Ringworm of the scalp requires treatment prescribed by a physician, and must be covered while at school. The school nurse must be notified of appropriate treatment.

The student will be readmitted to school if the nurse is satisfied that the live infestation is noncommunicable, or when the student presents a certificate of non infectiousness from a physician.

BED BUGS

While bed bugs are not known to transmit disease, their occasional transport into school can cause annoyance. It is sometimes possible for a few bed bugs to be carried to school from a home by

hiding in clothing or a backpack. Below are several steps that you can take to help reduce the risk of bed bugs hitchhiking to school:

1. Please keep all clothes, shoes, backpacks, lunch boxes, coats, homework, books and laptops away from beds and upholstered furniture.
2. Any items that are stored near beds or other furniture should be placed in a clear plastic bin or plastic bag until the student needs to take them outside the home.
3. If you suspect that these items have been in contact with beds or other furniture, please place these items in a dryer on medium-high heat for at least 20 minutes. If any of these items can be laundered, washing and drying on the hottest settings that the fabric can safely withstand (at least 113 degrees F for at least 1 hour) is recommended to kill bed bugs. The higher the temperature, the shorter the time needed to kill bed bugs at all life stages.
4. Use a protective cover that encases mattresses and box springs. Check the cover regularly for holes.

Memphis Street Academy will help by discreetly conducting its own check of items that are brought to school if there is information or reasonable suspicion that bed bugs were carried into school. This check will be accomplished without interruption to your student's education.

ONGOING NEED FOR CURRENT INFORMATION

If a student has any chronic health problems, parents/guardians must update his/her health status yearly.

There may be instances when it would be essential for the school nurse to be able to immediately contact a student's parent or guardian. It is very important that the nurse have current telephone numbers in order to contact a parent, guardian or designated person in case of an emergency.

TRANSPORTATION

It is the responsibility of a student's parent/guardian to provide transportation home, to a doctor, or by ambulance if such a need arises. It is their responsibility to obtain medical attention unless an emergency is so serious that the student must be taken immediately from school to a doctor. In case of such an emergency, the parent/guardian will be notified as soon as possible and a school employee will remain with the student until the parent/guardian arrives at the school or treatment site. Memphis Street Academy Charter School is not responsible for any costs of emergency care or transportation.

RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER ACCIDENT

If a student returns to school following an accident with restrictions, a physician's note outlining the restrictions must accompany the student. The student or the student's parent/guardian is required to deliver the physician's note outlining the restrictions to the school nurse on the first day the student returns to school following an accident.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

The purpose of homebound instruction is to provide students with some level of instructional services during a temporary period of absence so that, on return to school, they can re-engage successfully with their instructional programs.

A student may be eligible for homebound instruction if he or she is confined to home or hospital for physical disability, illness, injury, urgent reasons, or when such confinement is recommended for psychological or psychiatric reasons. The term, "urgent reasons," will be strictly construed and does not permit irregular attendance. The student's condition must be temporary in nature, and the temporary condition must be anticipated to last more than four (4) weeks. Additionally, the student's need for homebound instruction must be formally documented by a physician or psychiatrist.

Any parent/guardian who wishes to enroll his or her student in homebound instruction should contact the school counselor for additional information.