

Student Health Information 2026 - 2027

1. **EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

- a. Please update emergency contact numbers each year to ensure the safety of your child. Be sure to list as your emergency contacts local people who are available during the school day and will have permission to take your child from school.

2. **IMMUNIZATIONS** – All immunizations must be up-to-date by the first day of school, or students may be excluded from school. Please send a physician's verification of any recent inoculations/boosters, etc. to the school nurse. If up-to-date immunization records cannot be provided on the first day of school, please contact your school nurse. If you would like more information on the NJDOH immunization schedule, please visit [here](#). Please take special note of the following:

- a. Religious exemptions must be submitted as a written statement signed and dated by the parent/guardian. The statement must include the student's full name, a religious reference, and whether the exemption applies to all vaccines or only a specific vaccine.
- b. Medical exemption [requests](#) must be completed by the student's physician.

3. **MEDICAL INFORMATION/MEDICATION**– As per state regulations, medication may not be dispensed in school. However, exceptions may be made when necessary for the child's welfare. Please note the following:

- a. Please update all medical information for the 2026-2027 school year.
- b. If your child no longer has a medical condition and/or no longer needs medication, please provide signed/dated documentation from your physician.
- c. If your child has a medical condition and/or needs medication in school, please complete the relevant forms. All Medical Forms may be found on the [MERS Nurse website](#). These forms must be completed annually and given to the school nurse by the first day of school.
- d. All prescription medication must be in a labeled prescription bottle or container; all over-the-counter medication must be in its original bottle or container. Both must be accompanied by the doctor's orders for the current school year and delivered directly to the school nurse.
- e. The parent/guardian must deliver the medication to the school nurse. Children are not permitted to carry medication to school at any time, unless self-administration orders are completed.
- f. The parent/guardian must pick up the medication from the school nurse at the end of the school year. Children are not permitted to carry medication at any time, unless self-administration orders are completed. After reasonable efforts to have the parent retrieve the medication have failed, any unused medication that remains in the school will be discarded in accordance with policy and medical controls.

4. **MERS SPORTS** – All students participating in extracurricular sports in grades 6, 7, and 8 must have an up to date [NJ Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation](#). The required physical forms may be printed from the [MERS Nurse website](#), and returned to the nurse upon completion.

5. **HEALTH SCREENINGS:**

- a. N.J.A.C. 6A:16: Each district board of education shall ensure that students receive the required health screenings.
- b. Vision, hearing, dental, height, and weight screenings will be conducted annually for each preschool student.
- c. Height, weight and blood pressure screenings will be conducted annually for each student in kindergarten through grade eight.
- d. Vision Acuity Screenings will be conducted biennially for students in kindergarten through grade eight.
- e. Hearing Acuity Screenings will be conducted annually for students in kindergarten through grade three, as well as students in grade seven.
- f. Scoliosis screenings shall be conducted for students in fifth and seventh grades.
- g. If a parent prefers to have their child screened by a private physician, a written notice must be submitted to the school nurse by October 1st of that school year. The child's private physician must perform all of the required screenings, per grade level, within July 1st and June 30th of the current school year. To be in compliance, parents must submit the [Private Physician's Health Screening Form](#) to the school nurse by the end of the school year.

6. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

- a. Students with symptoms of communicable diseases should remain home or will be sent home and readmitted to school as per district policy, which may include required physician documentation.
- b. *Pediculus Humanus Capitis* (Head Lice) – There may be instances of head lice in schools. The following are signs that indicate the presence of lice: persistent itching of the scalp and/or the presence of nits (small silvery egg cases attached to individual hairs). Please check the scalp of your child frequently. If you think your child may have lice, contact the school nurse. Students with lice must be treated for lice before returning to school.

7. TEMPORARY MEDICAL DEVICES IN SCHOOLS - If your child will be using any temporary medical device at school (e.g., crutches, cast, splint, brace, sling, wheelchair, orthopedic boot, knee scooter), you must notify the school and provide a doctor's note before the student comes to school with the device. It is expected that the student will be trained by the doctor to use the device safely prior to using it at school. The doctor's note must include:

- a. Description of the condition/injury requiring the device
- b. Statement that the device is medically necessary for use at school
- c. Expected duration of use
- d. Activity restrictions (e.g., no PE, no recess, no sports)
- e. Either the date the student may return to full activity without the device, or the date of the next medical appointment when that date will be determined

Until a doctor's note is received, the student may be restricted from normal school activities and may be sent home if documentation cannot be obtained promptly.