

ST. MARY'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Student Services/St. Mary's County Health Department

GUIDELINES FOR PARENT(S)/LEGAL GUARDIAN(S): PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

The health of a child is an important factor in the learning process. Therefore, cooperation between the health department, the private medical sector, the home, and the school is essential for academic success.

In general, the administration of medication to students while they are in school is to be discouraged. Treatment schedules which allow doses to be given at times other than during school hours are preferred and encouraged. However, when in the opinion of the authorized medical provider it is necessary for the student to be given medication during school hours, such medication must be administered in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) must obtain a written order from the physician, podiatrist, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, certified midwife or dentist, using the Parent/Legal Guardian and Physician/Prescriber Authorization – Medication Orders form. Each school has copies of this form.
2. The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) must sign the parents/legal guardians consent on the back of form.
3. The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) should bring the completed Parent/Legal Guardian and Physician/Prescriber Authorization – Medication Orders form to school, along with a supply of medication in the original pharmacy container. Medication may not be transported by students on the bus.
4. If a signed Parent/Legal Guardian and Physician/Prescriber Authorization – Medication Orders form is not submitted, the school nurse will accept a verbal order from an authorized medical provider. Verbal orders may be taken by a school nurse (RN) or LPN. A written authorized medical provider's order must follow and written parental consent is still required.
5. Each medication must be in the original pharmacy container clearly labeled with the child's name, the name of the medicine, directions for its administration, the name of the authorized medical provider, and the date of the prescription.
6. The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) must submit to the school, the Parent/Legal Guardian and Physician/Prescriber Authorization – Medication Orders form from the physician, podiatrist, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, certified midwife, or dentist of any change in dosage or time of administration of medication, or change in the duration medication is to be given.
7. The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) must give the first day's dosage of any new prescription except for "prn" emergency medications.
8. The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) must pick up unused or discontinued medication at school. Medication not collected by the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be destroyed.

A student who brings and/or takes medication of any type without following the medication regulation is entirely the responsibility of the parent(s)/legal guardian(s), or student and not that of either the school or the health department.