

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HEALTH & IMMUNIZATION POLICIES

BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT Bellevue, Washington 2008-2009

Life Threatening Health Conditions:

Prior to the attendance at school, each child with a life-threatening health condition shall present a medication or treatment order addressing the condition. A life threatening health condition means a condition that will put the child in danger of death during the school day if a medication or treatment order providing authority to a R.N. and nursing plan are not in place. Following submission of the medication or treatment order, a nursing plan shall be developed by the School Nurse. Students who have a life threatening health condition and no medication or treatment order presented to the school shall be excluded from school, to the extent that the district can do so consistent with federal requirements for students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It is the parent responsibility to contact the School Nurse prior to attending school.

Immunizations:

Students may not be enrolled in school unless a completed Certificate of Immunization Status is submitted. The Washington State Immunization Law requires that any student entering a school district for the first time, must present to the school the dates (month, day, and year) of immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), Varicella and Hepatitis B.

Having the disease of measles, mumps, or rubella, does not exempt a student from the required immunization unless proof of a positive laboratory titer is presented. The regulations exempt a student from the immunization requirements if religious or philosophical objectives are expressed by the parents or a valid medical reason exists to contraindicate immunizations. Following proper notification, the school shall exclude the student for noncompliance with the immunization laws pursuant to the appeal process procedures for student expulsions. Please see the Washington State School Immunization Requirement sheet to make sure your student has all the required immunizations for their grade level.

Health Examination:

In accordance with Bellevue School District Policy (4320 – School Health Services), a health examination is required before entering kindergarten, middle school and high school and is recommended at the third-grade level. Students new to Bellevue schools are also required to have a health examination or to submit the results of a previous examination at the required school level while a resident in another school district. A dental examination is highly recommended. Students entering Bellevue schools in grade 12 will not be required to furnish a health-status report except as required for participation in interscholastic athletics.

If you are unable to submit the results of a previous health examination, please take the enclosed card to your private physician and ask him/her to assist us by providing the information requested. If you wish to request an exemption from the physical examination requirement, you may request an exception from your child's school.

Medications at School:

Bellevue School District has a **no drug** policy, **which includes any over-the-counter medication, herbal medications and prescription medications.** In the event that there exists a valid health reason which requires the administration of any medication to a student during school hours, proper notification and authorization must be completed in compliance with RCW 28A.210.260 and the Washington State Nurse Practice Act. A prior written request and authorization form must be filled out by **both the parent and a licensed physician** for any over-the-counter medication, prescription medication, herbal medications and epinephrine injections. This form must be on file in the office and are good for the current school year, unless a shorter period is specified. The Medication Authorization form is available in the school office and on the district web page.

Bellevue School Nurse Health Information:

On Bellevue School District's Web site, the school nurses have put information about health requirements as well as many of the health forms that are required for school attendance. You can find suggested guidelines for deciding if your child is too sick to attend school, what immunizations are required for your child's grade level, copies of different Health Care Plans if you would like to communicate your child's health care during school days and links to community sites that parents might find useful. Go to the Bellevue School District Web site at www.bsd405.org. Click on Resources and then click on School Nurse Information.

Vision and Hearing Screening:

The Bellevue School District provides vision and hearing screening programs. Vision and hearing screening is conducted annually in kindergarten through fifth grade, and in seventh grade. A student at any grade level having a suspected hearing or vision problem can obtain a vision or hearing screening. Referrals can be originated by the teacher, parents, or students themselves.

Head Lice Information

As of October 2007, the Bellevue School District has adopted a new procedure for the management of head lice.

Research published by the American Academy of Pediatrics has shown that the presence of nits does not cause or contribute to the spread of lice. The Harvard School of Public Health has also recommended a "no live lice" policy. The National Association of School Nurses also endorses this "no live lice" policy.

If your student should have a case of head lice, please contact the school office/school nurse. The application of a pediculocide shampoo will kill the lice, but nits remain on the hair shaft. Diligent combing for at least 14 days is the only way to remove the remaining nits. It would be punitive to keep children out of school and at home until every last nit is removed, and the best scientific research tells us that this is unnecessary. Students will not be excluded from school with nits/lice. Parents will be notified, and requested to treat their students per recommendation.

Your school nurse is available to explain the specifics of the procedure.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students healthy and safe.
Bellevue School District Nurses

Head Lice Information Websites:

- Seattle King County Department of Public Health: <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/prevcont/headlice.htm>
- U.S Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/lice/2004_PDF_Head_Lice.pdf
- Harvard School of Public Health: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.htm>
- Lice Aren't Nice! <http://www.doh.wa.gov/publicat/PaperPubs./lice.htm>
- American Academy of Pediatrics <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;110/3/638>