

District Medication Policy

It is the policy of the Cocalico School District to administer prescription medication during school hours only when necessary. Whenever possible, medication should be given to students at home, before or after school. The medication in its original container, labeled by the pharmacist or physician, must be accompanied by a completed permission slip.

All medication for elementary students must be brought to the school by the parent/guardian. These students are not permitted to transport any medication. All exceptions, such as inhalers or epi-pens, must be discussed with the school nurse.

Secondary students may bring prescription medication to the health room prior to the start of the school day. Exception: any medication that is a Schedule II controlled substance (such as Ritalin, Adderall) must be delivered to the school by the parent/guardian.

No over the counter medication will be administered without a doctor's prescription.

Any illness that persists and leaves your child feeling unwell should be evaluated by a physician. While we recognize it is difficult to know sometimes whether or not to send a child to school, we ask that you use good common sense.

Sick children belong at home...

...well children belong in school.



Cold/Cough

The common cold presents the biggest problem for parents. Usually a cold is not a reason to stay home, but a child with a hacking cough and a feeling of congestion and achiness belongs home in bed even if he/she does not have a fever. The cough will hang around awhile; he/she does not need to stay home for the duration of the entire cold. Remember the school procedure for cough drops is that they be brought to the health room (HR) with a permission note from the parent. The child must come to the HR to use them. If they are medicated cough drops, they must have a note from your physician, this is in keeping with the over-the-counter medication section of the District Medication Policy. Studies have shown that it is just as beneficial for children to bring a water bottle to school to use for cough relief, as cough drops. Please consider this alternative.

Earache

A child with an earache should be seen by a doctor.

Headache

If the complaint is a headache, usually the child can go to school. Make certain there is no accompanying fever. Please refer to the District Medication Policy for the administration policy on over-the-counter medications.

Fever

No child with a fever over 100° should be sent to school. Do not allow a child to return to school until he/she has been fever free for 24 hours *without medication*.

Sore Throat

If your child complains of a sore throat and no other symptoms, he/she may go to school. If white patches or fever are present or the discomfort lasts more than 2-3 days, keep the child home and consult your physician. Please see the policy on cough drops listed under coughs. A water bottle is also often very effective in controlling the discomfort associated with mild sore throat.

Chicken Pox

School Nurses are guided by the PA Dept of Health (DOH) regulations for the exclusion of students showing signs of communicable diseases. Children with chicken pox must be excluded from school for 5 days from the appearance of the first set of vesicles, or when all the lesions have dried and crusted. The school should be notified if you suspect your child has or they have been diagnosed with chicken pox. If you have questions about when to return to school, please contact the school nurse.

Conjunctivitis/Pink Eye

As with chicken pox there are state guidelines from the PA DOH regulating the exclusion of students with suspected or diagnosed conjunctivitis, pink eye. If your child has drainage from the eye/s or the eye/s are crusted closed upon waking they should not come to school until seen by a physician. Also, if they are complaining of extreme itching, burning or a “picking” feeling associated with redness they should be evaluated before returning to school. If your child is sent home from school with suspected pink eye, they must be seen by a physician and either cleared or they must be receiving treatment for 24 hrs. before returning to school. If you have questions about when to return to school, please contact the school nurse.

Stomachache/Vomiting/Diarrhea

If your child is vomiting or has diarrhea they should always stay home. They should not have any episodes for at least 12 hours before returning and be able to eat without a return of symptoms. If a stomachache is persistent or is limiting a child's ability to function, consult your physician.

Rash

A rash could be the sign of many things. It could be the start of a childhood illness, i.e. chicken pox, roseola, 5th disease, or it could be an allergic reaction, impetigo, or poison ivy. If you don't know the cause, do not send your child to school until you consult your physician.