

## Health

### Accidents and Injuries

All injuries sustained by students while in attendance at school will be reported to the principal's office. A report of each accident is required by the Texas Education Agency and will be filed by the campus nurse. The School District furnishes supplemental insurance coverage for students, while at school and provides each student the opportunity to purchase a student insurance policy to cover them while at home. If, in the judgment of any representative of the school, the student needs immediate care and treatment as a result of any injury or sickness, then any physician, trainer, nurse, hospital, or school representative may administer treatment to said student.

[See: Medical Treatment-Emergency]

### Communicable Diseases/Conditions

To protect children from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. Parents of a student with a communicable or contagious disease are asked to telephone the school nurse/principal so that other students who have been exposed to the disease can be alerted. A student who has certain diseases is not allowed to come to school while the disease is contagious.

Amebiasis	Hepatitis, Viral (A, B, or C)	Rubella(German Measles)
Campylobacteriosis	Impetigo	including congenital
Varicella (Chickenpox)	Infectious mononucleosis	Salmonellosis -
Common cold w/fever	Influenza	including typhoid fever
Fifth disease -	Measles (Rubeola)	Scabies
(Erythema Infectiosum)	Meningitis, Bacterial	Shigellosis
Gastroenteritis, Viral	Mumps	Streptococcal disease, invasive
Giardiasis	Pinkeye (Conjunctivitis)	Tuberculosis, Pulmonary
Head Lice (Pediculosis)	Ringworm of the scalp	Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

### State Law requires that the district provide the following information:

#### What is Meningitis?

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral meningitis is most common and the least serious. Bacterial meningitis is the most common form of serious bacterial infection with potential for serious, long term complications. It is an uncommon disease, but requires urgent treatment with antibiotics to prevent permanent damage or death.

#### Symptoms :

Not everyone will have the same symptoms. Someone with meningitis will become very ill. The illness may develop over one or two days, however, it can also rapidly progress in a matter of hours. Children (over 1 year old) and adult may have severe headache, high temperature, vomiting, sensitivity to bright light, neck stiffness, or joint pains, drowsiness and confusion. In both

children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots. These can occur anywhere on the body.

The diagnosis of bacterial meningitis is based on a combination of symptoms and laboratory results.

**How serious is Bacterial Meningitis?**

If diagnosed early and treated promptly, the majority of people make a complete recovery. In some cases it can be fatal or a person can be left with a permanent disability.

**How is the disease spread?**

The germs live in our noses and throats, but do not live long outside the body. They are spread when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing, sharing drinking containers, utensils, or cigarettes.)

The germ does not cause meningitis in most people. Instead, most people become carriers of the germ for days, weeks, or even months. The bacteria rarely overcome the body's immune system and cause meningitis or another serious illness.

**How Can Meningitis Be Prevented.**

Do not share food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes. Limit the number of persons you kiss.

While there are vaccines for some strains of bacterial meningitis, they are used only in special circumstances. These include when there is a disease breakout in a community or for people traveling to a country where there is a high risk of getting the disease. Also, a vaccine is recommended by some groups for college students, particularly freshmen living in dorms or residence halls. The vaccine is safe and effective (85-90 percent). It can cause some side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops within seven to ten days after the vaccine is given.

**More Information**

Your family doctor or regional health department are excellent sources for more information. Also you can check the following web sights: Center for Disease Control [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and the Texas Department of Health: [www.tdh.state.tx.us](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us).

**Immunization**

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical or religious reasons, the student will not be immunized. The immunizations required are diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles (rubella), mumps, hemophilus influenza, and chicken pox. The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by the Texas Department of Health. Proof of immunization may be personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation.

If a student's religious belief conflicts with these requirements he/she must present a statement signed by the student and parent requesting exemption from policy. If the

student should not be immunized because of medical reasons, he/she must present a statement from a physician giving the reason for exemption.

### **Counseling-Personal**

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including social, family, emotional, academic, or chemical dependency needs. The counselor may also make available information about community resources to address personal concerns. Students who wish to meet with the school counselor should sign up in the counselor's office.

### **Medication**

A student who must take prescription (or nonprescription) medicine during the school day must bring a written request from his or her parent and the medicine, in its original container, to the office. The nurse or other staff member will either give the medicine at the proper times or give the student permission to take the medication as directed.

### **Medical Treatment/Emergency**

If a student has a medical emergency at school or at a school-related activity when the parent cannot be reached, the school may consent to medical treatment for that student, provided all that all the following conditions are met:

1. The person having the power to consent as otherwise provided by the law cannot be contacted.
2. Written authorization to consent has been received from that person. The statement authorizing the parent consent to medical treatment is located on the Parent/Student Acknowledgment form in the back of this handbook.

### **Physical Examinations / Health Screenings**

#### *Vision and Hearing Screening*

When a student's initial enrollment in the District is also the student's initial enrollment in any Texas school, the student shall be screened for possible vision and hearing problems. All ninth grade students will be screened for vision and hearing sometime during the school year prior to May 31st.

#### *Spinal Screening*

Students in the seventh/ninth grade will be screened for abnormal curvature of the spine before the end of the school year. Any abnormal spine curvature will be reported to the parent or guardian. It is then the responsibility of the parent or guardian to select an appropriate health practitioner for an examination.

#### *Exemptions*

A student may be exempt from any screening if the tests conflict with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination of which the student is a member. The parent or guardian must furnish the school with an affidavit stating the objections to the screening.