Division of School Health

Chief of the Division of School Health
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Please begin contacting the School Health Nurse Consultant in your region. Contact information below:

School Health Nurse Consultants
- Brenda Wallace – NW
  bwallace@pa.gov (717) 571-2267
- Tammy Burford – SW
  tburford@pa.gov (724) 290-7526
- Donna Wiles – NC
  dowiles@pa.gov (570)-875-8674
- Ed Woods – SC
  edwoods@pa.gov (717) 736-7375
- Sheri Mountz - NE
  smountz@pa.gov (570) 892-4080
- Sharon Lawrence – SE
  sharolawre@pa.gov (570) 590-9551

As a reminder, if there have been any changes regarding new nursing staff, nurse retirements, etc. please notify your school nurse consultant of the changes so we may keep our distribution lists up to date.
On November 17, 2021, Act 84 was signed into law in Pennsylvania. This law, which is effective at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, added section 1414.11, related to seizure recognition and related first aid to the Public School Code. Act 84 enables professional employees of a school entity to be trained in seizure recognition and response through an online course or in-person training approved by Department of Health (DOH). The training is not required, but can count toward a professional educator's continuing professional education requirement and a school or system leader's continuing professional education requirement.

The following course from the Epilepsy Foundation meets the requirements of Act 84 and is approved for use in Pennsylvania schools:

Seizure Training for School Personnel

Communicable Disease Questions

Please contact your state health center or your local county health department.

Please see website for contact information for your county.

https://www.health.pa.gov/About/Pages/State%20Health%20Centers.aspx

ACT 122 OF 2020:
VISION SCREENING

New vision screening guidelines will go into effect after regulations are promulgated. There is no definitive timeframe. School Health will send out more information when available.

Refugee Health Resources

As of August 1, 2022, individuals in Pennsylvania submitted nearly 6,000 applications to sponsor Ukrainian refugees. The below link provides information on Pennsylvania’s Refugee Health Program.


PA HAN 655 (attached) also provides additional information and resources.

Medical Marijuana Questions

Please contact 717-547-3047 or RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov

The Division of School Health has no regulatory authority over the use of marijuana products in schools. We may only refer you to the medical marijuana program and its website.

https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/Medical%20Marijuana/Pages/School.aspx
COVID Guidance 22-23 School Year

COVID Health Guidance has moved to the PA Department of Health COVID page. The COVID Resources for Schools page has the most current guidance and information, in addition to PA HAN 656 (attached):

https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/schools.aspx

The CDC recently released updated guidance for schools as it relates to COVID-19. As noted previously, we encourage schools to align with CDC guidance to prepare for the upcoming school year.

The recently released CDC guidance includes updated recommendations for the management of COVID-19 in K-12 schools, including:

- Removed the recommendation to cohort
- Changed recommendation to conduct screening testing to focus on high-risk activities during high COVID-19 Community Level or in response to an outbreak
- Removed the recommendation to quarantine, except in high-risk congregate settings
- Removed information about Test to Stay

We strongly encourage schools to voluntarily continue their weekly reporting of COVID-19 cases to DOH. Schools may begin reporting positive cases to DOH at any time during the school year. Due to the unpredictability of COVID-19 variants and the low vaccination rate among school-aged children, understanding the spread of COVID-19 in schools continues to be an important tool for managing increases in cases and outbreaks. Public health responses to outbreaks may be delayed for schools if this level of case information is not reported. As a reminder, schools should contact DOH for technical assistance or public health consultation at RA-DHK12Epi@pa.gov, and schools within a county or municipal health department jurisdiction should continue to follow local reporting processes.

DOH will continue providing free testing resources to schools for the 2022-23 school year. If you have questions about the school testing program, please contact DOH at RA-DHK12COVIDTEST@pa.gov.
Monkeypox

Monkeypox (MPX) is not like COVID-19, and it is much less contagious. The current risk of getting Monkeypox is very low for the general public. The most current information available on Monkeypox is below:


What action should I take if I have been exposed to Monkeypox?
If you have been in contact with a case of monkeypox, you should monitor your health and check your temperature twice daily. If symptoms develop, you should immediately self-isolate and contact your healthcare provider or the health department for further guidance. If you are a contact and remain asymptomatic, you can continue to do your routine daily activities (e.g., go to work, school). Contacts should not donate blood, cells, tissue, breast milk, semen, or organs while they are under symptom surveillance.

For more information about Monkeypox: [https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/](https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/) [https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/faq.html](https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/faq.html) This fact sheet provides general information. Please contact your physician and/or veterinarian for specific clinical information related to you or your animal.

Thank You for all you do for Pennsylvania PK-12 students, staff, and families.