

TEWKSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

As the school year begins, it is an appropriate time to familiarize you with health policies that will take place in the coming year in the Tewksbury Public Schools.

1. **ACCIDENT /ILLNESS forms:** Please correct and return as soon as possible. Any recent health problem that is not reflected in your child's health record should be brought to the school nurse's attention immediately. **The importance of correct forms cannot be overemphasized. Please update the school with any changes during the school year.**
2. **Screenings:** State law mandates the following screenings:
 - Height, weight and BMI measurements in grades 1, 4, 7 and 10
 - Vision screening is conducted during the year in grades 1-5, 7 and 9. Parents/guardians will be informed if the child requires follow up. These are screenings are not to be used as diagnostic studies.
 - Hearing screening is conducted during the year in grades K-3, 5, 7 and 9. Parents/guardians will be informed if the child requires follow up. These are screenings are not to be used as diagnostic studies.
 - Postural Screening is conducted on all students in grades 5 – 9. This is mandated by the state of Massachusetts. You will be notified prior to the screening and if your child requires follow up.
 - **A Parent /guardian may refuse any screening for their child in writing to the school nurse.**
3. **Physicals:** State law in grades K, 4, 7, & 10 mandates school physicals. Physical exam forms were sent out in the spring. In addition, most Doctor's offices have a similar form of their own, which is acceptable. Please return all completed forms by **October 1st**.
4. **Medication:** State law Please call the school nurse in your child's school for medication order and parental permission forms. **NO Medication, prescription or over the counter** can be administered without these forms. All medication must be in a pharmacy labeled container or original manufacturer's container. Please contact the school nurse for any medication administration including prescribed, over the counter medications, inhalers etc Forms are currently available from the school nurse and soon from the TPS website. **Self –administration is not permitted for over the counter medications. Inhalers require MD orders and written parent permission for self administration prior to review by the school nurse.**
5. **Illness, Injuries and Surgeries:** Please call the school when your child is absent. In the event of a physician documented contagious illness, it is important for the school nurse to know. This is for the protection of your child as well as the other students and staff that may be susceptible to infection. **A Doctor's note is required when the student returns to school when there are any restrictions in activity, including the nature of the restriction and the time/ length of the restriction and clearance to return to school especially in cases of hospitalization and surgery.** Students must also have documentation from a MD before returning to school, with splints, braces crutches, slings, and stitches etc.
6. **Concussion and Head Injuries:** **Head injuries/ concussions must be reported to the school nurse, when reporting back to school.** Documentation from the health care provider must be provided to the school nurse that the student may return to school along with any restrictions in activity or academics that may be required. Please contact the school nurse prior to returning to school.

Please call the school nurse at your child's school for any questions and for more information regarding these procedures.