

## **SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES**

The School Health Office provides services to support student success at Shiloh Christian School. The focus is on campus, group, and individual health and safety needs. The scope of services is guided by standards provided by the Arkansas Departments of Health and Education, the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, and the National Association of School Nurses. The School Nurse, Shiloh faculty and staff, substitute nurses, parent and community volunteers, and local college students assist in meeting the goals of the School Health Office. When health emergencies occur, basic first response care is provided until local emergency medical personnel and/or parents assume responsibility.

The School Health Office is located on the lower level of the Faith Hallway, across from the library. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The office may be closed when the nurse is away for other assignments and/or lunch. Upon request, the administrative offices may page the nurse. If unavailable, designated personnel will be assigned to meet basic student health needs.

Additional information about School Health Services:

### **A. Health Information**

Parents (guardians) provide consent for care and pertinent health information during the enrollment process. Parents are asked to directly contact the School Nurse for significant health changes after enrollment. The privacy of a student's school health information is protected by current national and state interpretations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and Shiloh policy. As such, health information use is limited, to include reference for basic care, for determination of a special need necessitating an Individual Health Care Plan (IHP), and for development of a "Special Alert List". This alert list is provided to the Dean; select teachers, recess supervisors, and coaches; and/or the Cafeteria Supervisor. This list includes only those conditions that may necessitate immediate or emergency attention and/or special accommodation, such as but not limited to: severe food and environmental allergies, asthma, diabetes, and seizure disorders. Parents desiring that their student's health information be handled in any other way must coordinate this with the School Nurse.

### **B. Acute Illness and Injury**

Students presenting or referred with illness, injury, or other health concerns at school are assessed and treated in the context of the best interest of both health and academics. This may result in the recommendation that a student goes home, is referred via their parents,

and/or attempts to go back to class to see if symptoms improve or resolve. Formal reassessment is dependent on the individual situation.

#### C. Communicable Disease

The Arkansas School Health Services Manual and Shiloh policy provides guidance for excluding students with either suspected or known communicable disease or incomplete immunization status. As a general rule, a student whose temperature is 100.0 F degrees or greater and/or experiences vomiting or diarrhea will be excluded from school, as will students with an undetermined body rash, significant eye inflammation, or other signs or symptoms of a potentially communicable disease. Moreover, students requiring antibiotic therapy must follow the guidelines of their private provider before returning to school. This usually includes resolution of acute signs and symptoms, to include free of fever without medication for 24 hours and 1-2 days of antibiotics. The school nurse will apply private provider instructions, current Arkansas Department of Health guidelines, and the best interest of the school and individual in making the final decision for exclusion from school.

In an effort to prevent the spread of seasonal flu in our community, all associated with Shiloh are encouraged to consider flu vaccination for themselves and their family this year. Watch the local media for when you can access this important preventive care.

#### D. Parent Notification of Health Room Visits

Time constraints limit the nurse's ability to directly notify secondary parents of routine health interventions not resulting in disposition home and/or immediate referral.

#### E. Medications

Many medications, including antibiotics and most allergy and behavioral medications, are best given at home. For instance, antibiotics that are prescribed for three times per day are most beneficial and tolerated by taking at or near regular intervals while awake at home, such as at breakfast, after school, and before bed. In the rare instance when home administration of prescribed medication is not possible, or the need for a stand-by rescue medication or protocol exists, medication administration can be requested as follows.

1. The parent or legal guardian must provide a written request for the administration of a prescribed medication. This request should include the medication name, dosage, administration time, parent's

printed name, signature, and best contact number. Pre-printed request forms are available from the Nurse by email or visit. .

2. This request must accompany the medication in its original container with the original label that includes the provider's name and date, patient name, drug name and dosage and clear administration directions. Upon request, many pharmacies will split a prescription to assist with this requirement.

3. Medications containing narcotics cannot be administered in the school setting. These medications are highly regulated and the School Nurse office is not set up to comply with these regulations. The School Nurse is also prohibited from administering non-FDA approved medications, to include herbal preparations.

4. Arkansas law and current practice allow for the responsible student to carry their own rescue medications (e.g. Act 1694, "Alex's Law"). This includes prescribed Auto-Injectable Epinephrine, Asthma Inhalers, and diabetic medications. Per law, the need for this must be documented by a private provider and reviewed by the parent, school nurse, student, and if indicated, select faculty, coaching staff, and/or peers. Parents may provide the School Nurse Office with back-up rescue medications for their student.

#### F. Immunizations

1. Arkansas state law and associated rules and regulations state that "no infant or child shall be admitted to a public or private childcare or school facility that has not been age-appropriately immunized . . . ." It is the parent's responsibility to consult with their local private provider and/or the public health department to coordinate appropriate immunization, keep school records updated, and immediately respond to any discrepancy notice.

2. Arkansas state law does allow for parents to request an annual exemption from state immunization requirements by contacting:

Director of Communicable Disease  
Immunization Division  
Arkansas Department of Health  
4815 West Markham Street, Slot 48  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
Phone: 1-800-235-0002

The parent must notify the School Nurse when an exemption request is in process and provide a copy of approval when processing is completed.

### 3. Minimum Immunization **Requirements**:

Kindergarten (K5) through 12th grade students must meet the following to be admitted and/or to continue attending school in Arkansas:

Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTP): Minimum of 3 doses (the last must be on/or after the 4th birthday). Arkansas has added a pre-adolescent/adolescent booster requirement this school year (i.e., Tdap marketed as Adacel or Boosterix). Local providers are offering this starting at age 11 or 12 years old. Students ages 11-18 are encouraged to catch-up with this booster.

Polio (OPV or IPV): Minimum of 3 doses (the last must be on/or after the 4th birthday).

Measles/Mumps Rubella (MMR): Minimum of 2 doses for Measles (both must be on/or after the 1st birthday).

Chicken Pox Vaccine (Varivax): Two (2) doses are required for kindergarten students. History of the disease will no longer be accepted in lieu of the vaccine. Two doses will also be required for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students if no prior doses have been received.

Hepatitis B: complete series before the end of the school year for all kindergarten, 7th grade, and transfer students.

### 4. Additional Immunization Recommendations

The nation's Center for Disease Control has updated recommendations for childhood immunizations. This includes the tetanus/pertussis and chicken pox boosters referenced above, and immunizations for protection against bacterial meningitis, Hepatitis A, and others. For guidance specific to your child, contact your private provider or health department for an immunization review and/or wellness visit. For general information, see:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/> or  
[http://www.nasn.org/Portals/0/resources/boost\\_teen\\_vaccinations\\_english.pdf](http://www.nasn.org/Portals/0/resources/boost_teen_vaccinations_english.pdf)

## G. Screenings

Students will have the opportunity for health screenings as guided by the Arkansas Departments of Health and Education. The ages of these screenings have changed. These include:

1. Vision and hearing screenings for K5, grades one (1), two (2), four (4), six (6), and eight (8), and all transfer students.
2. Adolescent postural screening (Scoliosis Screening). This screening has been for female students in the 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grades and males in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. Arkansas has modified this screening to females in the 6th and 8th grade and males in the 8th grade. State law requires that schools provide written notification to parents prior to the initiation of annual Scoliosis screening. This notification will be mailed in the spring. State law also allows parents to exempt their student from this screening by providing the School Nurse with a *written* and signed exemption request.

If a student fails any of the above screenings, a written referral will be provided. This medical referral must be completed and returned to the School Nurse. Parental attention to processing these referrals is essential to effective use of the School Nurse.

## H. Projects

The School Nurse assists the faculty in their initiatives to integrate wellness education throughout the curriculum. Additional wellness projects are considered based on the availability of volunteer support.