

**PURPOSE**

Provide guidance for SBISD Health Services staff, campus principal, and campus principal designees to ensure the provision of a safe school environment for students that may be under the influence of an unknown substance(s). School nurses have the knowledge and education to identify and safely manage emergency situations in schools, including neurological impairment of students, which could be due to drug, alcohol, or substance use.

**ACTIONS**

1. Campus Administrator determines abnormal changes in student's behavior that may be consistent with potential substance use impairment (examples include the following):
  - Slurred speech
  - Loss of balance
  - Swaying
  - Stumbling
  - Other behavior atypical for the student
  - Abnormal odor or aroma (i.e. smoke, alcohol, or marijuana)
  - Student was observed in an unauthorized location
2. Student is brought to the clinic for an assessment
  - a. If student is brought to clinic by someone other than a Campus Administrator, nurse will notify Campus Administrator
  - b. Administrator must be present during neurological assessment for Suspected Under the Influence. Nurse will assess the student's vital signs and monitor until administrator arrives
3. Nurse triages the safety of the student and categorizes as EMERGENCY, URGENT, or NON-URGENT and determines need for EMS

**TRIAGE**

**ASSESSMENT**

- A. Emergency → ACTIVATE EMS
  - a. Respiratory/cardiac arrest
  - b. Unconscious/unable to arouse
  - c. Change in mental status
  - d. Labored/shallow breathing
  - e. Hallucinations, violent behavior, or extreme agitation

- f. Signs/Symptoms of trauma or injury
  - g. Seizure activity
- B. Urgent → DETERMINE NEED FOR EMS
- a. Somnolence, emesis, or unusual behavior
  - b. Unsteady gait
  - c. Memory problems
  - d. Mild agitation/restlessness
  - e. Suspicious odors
  - f. Needle marks/drug residue on skin, nose, or clothes
  - g. Previous loss of consciousness
  - h. Complicating health problems
- C. Non-urgent → Monitor and observe student
- a. Coherent and oriented
  - b. Stable vital signs
  - c. No loss of consciousness
4. If nurse determines the ***safety of the student is at risk***
- a. Call EMS
  - b. Campus Administrator will contact student's parent/guardian to notify
5. If nurse assessment ***is not*** consistent with impairment
- a. Nurse will communicate findings to Campus Administrator
6. If nurse assessment ***is*** consistent with possible impairment
- a. Student will be referred back to Campus Administrator and Campus Police Officer for administrative processing
  - b. Nurse should continue to assess and monitor student if needed
  - c. Nurse will write an Incident Report and send to the campus administrator requesting SUI assessment

**SUI: SUSPECTED  
UNDER THE  
INFLUENCE  
ASSESSMENT**

A campus administrator may consider requesting a Suspected Under the Influence, neurological impairment assessment if a student has an abnormal physical presentation or appearance.

To determine if “reasonable cause or suspicion of impairment” exists, remember to give equal consideration to the initial referral, surveillance footage (if available), administrator’s statement, student’s statement, and impairment assessment.

*\*An administrator must be present at all times during SUI Assessment.*