

# HEALTH SERVICES LETTER



*Dear Parent/Guardian:*

*As the school staff works with you this year, we need your assistance and cooperation in preparing for the possibility that your child might need to take medication, become ill, or have an accident during school hours. We hope this letter will better explain our procedures. All of this information can also be found in the Student and Parent Handbook under the Student Health heading. Please contact your school nurse with additional questions.*

## **HEALTH INFORMATION**

Please update your Student's Health Information Form YEARLY. If your child has any chronic health condition (such as diabetes, asthma, seizures, etc) you must provide an action plan at the start of each school year. In order to provide safe and appropriate care for your child at school, the action plan with doctor's orders & signature, medications, and/or equipment must be provided within 2 weeks of starting school. Failure to provide these items will result in the parent providing the care at school or the student being excluded from school until all necessary items are received by the school nurse.

## **STUDENT ILLNESS/INJURY**

Sick students who are contagious with active symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, congestion, cough, shortness of breath, recent loss of taste or smells, have had close contact or cared for a person with COVID19, rashes, and/or fever must not be sent to school. Students with a fever of 100.2 or higher must be excluded from school and should not return until they are fever free or active symptom free without the use of medications for 24 hours. Students returning too early may be sent home. When a student becomes ill or injured at school, or is required to be sent home from school due to health issues, the parent must be able to be contacted and arrange for the student to be picked up from school within a reasonable amount of time.

## **PRESCRIPTION (RX)/ OVER THE COUNTER (OTC) MEDICATIONS**

Students requiring medication for their medical condition should, under normal circumstances, take such medication either before coming to school or after they return home. However, if medication must be taken at school, the following procedures apply:

1. Medication Administration Permission form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian to remain on file in the school clinic.

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2. The medication must be in the original container (both Rx and OTC medications) and be taken to the school office/clinic by an adult. Student's are NOT allowed to transport medication in their bookbags. This is a violation of the county drug policy. Under no circumstances should medication be shown or shared with other students.
3. At the designated time, the student will go to the office/clinic to take their medication. Assistance/supervision will be given in accordance with the instructions on the Medication Administration Permission form. Medication is a parental responsibility; school employees will not assume any liability for supervising or assisting in the administration of medication.
4. Unused medication should be retrieved from the school office/clinic within one week after a medication is discontinued; otherwise the school will properly dispose of the medication.

**\* Students may carry cough drops in their bookbags.**

**\* Herbal/Alternative/Complementary Medications or dietary supplements are not to be given or self administered while at school. These products are not FDA approved.**

## HEAD LICE MANAGEMENT

In addition to the guidelines set forth in the Parent/Student Handbook, Effingham County Schools will follow the below process for lice management.

- First & second case: provide education and assistance in managing lice
- Third case within 2-3 months: refer to school social worker and attendance officer in addition to continued education
- Fourth case - refer to Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) for further assistance

All school health forms are available on the ECBOE district website at

[www.effinghamschools.com/health-forms](http://www.effinghamschools.com/health-forms)

(under Departments tab, select Health Services)

or from your school nurse.

*By working together, we can strive to ensure the health and well being of every student so that they can benefit from their educational program. With your assistance, we are "making every moment count, because every student matters".*

Have a safe & healthy school year!