



Immunizations

Immunization requirements must be met prior to school entry and for school participation. The District follows State immunization laws and valid vaccine records are required. Personal or religious beliefs exemptions are no longer accepted in place of required vaccines. Personal/religious beliefs exemptions already on file for a continuing student enrolled in the District will remain valid until the student reaches an immunization checkpoint or grade span. Grade spans are: birth to preschool, kindergarten (including transitional kindergarten), and grades 1-6, and grades 7-12.

Beginning January 1, 2021, medical exemptions can only be issued through the California Immunization Registry – Medical Exemption (CAIR-ME) website <https://cair.cdph.ca.gov/exemptions> by physicians licensed in California. Under current California law, a doctor can issue a medical exemption for students whose medical circumstances are such that immunization is not considered safe under the standard of medical care. An existing medical exemption on file at school will remain valid until the earliest of:

- When the student enrolls in the next grade span (Pre-K, TK/K-6th grade, 7th-12th grade)
- Revocation of the exemption by the appropriate authority

Please let your school nurse know when your child's immunizations are updated and if you have questions.

Physical Exams and Oral Health Assessment

Physical exams and oral health assessments are required at specified grade levels. Please refer to student enrollment information located on the website <http://web.nmusd.us/healthservices> or school for information about school health requirements.

Medication

Any medication at school requires written authorization. Forms are available from the school or Health Services website <http://web.nmusd.us/healthservices>. Medication authorization forms must be signed by physician and parent. The medication must be in a pharmacy labeled container in order for the medication to be given at school. Over-the-counter medication and products also require written physician orders. Please provide the school with extra medication in case of disasters.

Illness Prevention and Health Checks Prior to School

School nurses work collaboratively with the Orange County Health Care Agency in regard to concerns regarding communicable diseases at school. This helps us to maintain healthy and safe schools. For the health and safety of your student, and to minimize the potential spread of illness to students and staff, parents are asked to conduct a health check at home prior to sending students to school. If your student exhibits one or more of the following symptoms, please keep your student home, contact your doctor, and notify the school and school nurse.

- Fever of a 100.4°F degrees or higher
- New cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing
- Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Unusual rash
- Chills

- Body Aches
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Unusual fatigue or irritability

This list is not a comprehensive list of symptoms. Always consult your healthcare provider for health concerns. Student must be fever-free, without medication, for 24 hours before returning to school.

Current Health and Contact Information

Up-to-date health information, phone and cell numbers are essential in case your student becomes ill or injured at school or if there is a disaster. We strive to maintain confidentiality of all health records. Health information may be shared with appropriate staff as necessary. **A School Emergency 911** call may incur paramedic and ambulance fees to the family. You may wish to consider accident and health insurance.

Health Screenings

Health screening is a function of the school nurse and is provided according to State requirements and when students are referred to the nurse. Vision and hearing screening are done at state required grade levels. Dental, nutrition, height and weight screening may also be done. The parent/guardian will be notified if areas of concern are found. Parents/guardians are invited to notify the nurse if they have concerns and may “opt” out of health screenings by sending a written note to the school nurse.

Medi-Cal Program for Local Education

The school district participates in the California Medi-Cal Program for Local Education Agencies. This allows reimbursement to the district with federal Medi-Caid funds for select medically necessary services provided to eligible students at school. These services may include speech and language therapy, occupational/physical therapy, transportation, mental health, and specialized physical health care services. In accordance with the local educational agency rules and guidelines, eligible student health data may be forwarded to the school district's billing agency, in accordance with confidentiality laws and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance. Services currently provided to all students will not be changed by this program. Students will not be denied services they require to attend school, and parents will not be billed for services by the school district.

HOPE Clinic

The HOPE Clinic is a health center within the Newport-Mesa Unified School District. HOPE Clinic offers routine childhood immunizations, well child physical exams, tuberculosis screening, assistance with insurance and other resources. To make an appointment or for assistance, call 949-515-6725.

The School Nurse

The school nurse is the health expert at school and uses professional skills to support the well-being and success of students. Please contact the school for more information or if your student has a health concern and you would like to consult with the school nurse. Check <http://web.nmusd.us/healthservices> for more information.