

Hello everyone,

I hope the start to the school year has been wonderful for each of you! Below I have provided some answers to common medical/health/medication related questions. Please save this information for the 2023-2024 school year. If you have any questions for me as the year goes on please don't hesitate to email msecrest@mhstigers.org or call the school. I will be in the middle school/high school office on Mondays, the elementary building on Tuesdays, and working from home for part of the day on Wednesdays.

Although this email is lengthy, it has important information about medication forms and covid-19 and communicable disease policies. Thank you for reading!

What is the 2023-2024 Covid-19 and Other Communicable Disease Policy?

- Updated information about illnesses such as Covid-19, Influenza, Varicella, and Pertussis are included in [Manhattan School District's Policy 3417: Communicable Diseases](#).
- All communicable disease case information must be shared with the local health jurisdiction according to Montana Law. [Here is a complete list](#).
- If a student develops symptoms of a communicable disease while at school they will be asked to remain in the nurse's office until a parent or guardian is able to pick them up.
- Regardless of a test result or doctor's office visit, students and staff should stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and are experiencing relief of other symptoms. This information is included on the Manhattan Public Schools Next Steps and Illness Guide, attached here.
- The school will follow the advice of physicians who provide a note describing a time frame for students and staff to stay home.
- The Centers for Disease Control and the Gallatin City County Health Department recommend that people diagnosed with Covid-19 stay home for 5 full days after receiving a positive Covid-19 test result or their first day of symptoms (whichever came first) and return to school wearing a tight fitting mask for 5 more days IF they are symptom free and fever free.
- Individuals who are exposed to a person who later tests positive for a communicable disease do not need to stay home as long as they are experiencing no symptoms.
- As with all illnesses and absences please notify the front office. Please contact the school nurse, Maggie Secrest, with any questions.

What type of medications can my student have at school?

Non-Emergency Medications:

- Bring the medication to the school yourself, as the parent/guardian, and give it to the administrative assistant or school nurse.
- Make sure the medication is provided in the original container, either prescription or over-the-counter
- If the medication is a **prescription**, have the doctor write or fax an "order" for medication to be taken at school. There is an attached form here. You must also sign the form.
- If the medication is **over-the-counter** (non-prescription) you do not need a doctor's order, as the school has a standing order for Tylenol, Ibuprofen, and Benadryl. You DO need to sign a Permission for (OTC) Medication form. **If you want your student to have over the counter medications during the school year please complete this form in advance and return to the front office. You will be contacted before every administration.**
- Students are not allowed to carry medications. All non-emergency medications should be kept in the nurse's office.
- A parent/guardian may come to the school to administer medications as needed.

Emergency Medications:

- Students can carry emergency medications IF allowed by law (allergy and asthma medications) or allowed by a student specific 504 or IEP plan. IF it is an allergy or asthma medication, the authorization to carry form must be signed by a physician and the parent. This form is attached.
- Students may carry diabetes related medications such as insulin or glucagon with a doctor's order or medical management plan.

School Sponsored Trips or Outside the School Day

- High school students may carry medications ONLY while on school sponsored trips or events outside of the regular school day if 1) the medication is in the properly labeled pharmacy container, 2) only the amount of medication that needs to be taken while on the trip is carried, and 3) the parent wrote on the field trip permission form that the medication will be brought by the student.

Do I need to provide documentation of a doctor's office visit? What about accommodations while at school for an acute injury?

- Yes. Bring doctor's school excuse notes to the front office, which will provide necessary documentation for the absence.
- If there are accommodations or restrictions resulting from an acute injury or illness, please have the doctor describe them in a note and return it to the front office. **Important - if the note states that the student needs to be seen again and cleared by the physician, you must provide the follow up clearance note from the doctor to the front office.**

Have a wonderful day!
Maggie