Fulton County Schools
Where Students Come First

DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES

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2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR HEALTH SERVICES INFORMATION

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! The Fulton County Schools Department of District Health Services has prepared this letter to share important health-related information and policies. In collaboration with our schools, District Health Services works to ensure students stay healthy, safe, and ready to learn. Our team of licensed Registered School Nurses (Cluster School Nurses and Special Education Nurses) and Clinic Assistants provides health services at each school and serves as the key resource for all health-related matters, supporting the academic success of all students. This letter outlines key health services policies, procedures, and guidelines. Your partnership is critical in preparing for situations where your child may become ill, sustain an injury, require assistance with a medical condition or procedure, or need medication administration during the school day. Working together ensures we can provide the best care for your students(s).

EMERGENCY INFORMATION / HEALTH CONDITIONS / CHRONIC ILLNESSES / HEALTHCARE PLANS

Enrollment in Fulton County Schools (FCS) requires current and accurate contact and health information. Updated contact information is vital for the school to reach you in an emergency, accident, or illness. It is the parent/legal guardian's responsibility to update the school promptly with any changes to contact information (phone numbers, address) or healthcare needs. Please inform the school if your child has a medical condition or chronic illness, requires assistance with any medical procedure or treatment, takes daily medication, or has severe allergies or a disability requiring a special diet. Healthcare Plans and appropriate district Authorization Forms (SHS-1/SHS-2) are required for chronic illnesses or conditions requiring care at school (e.g., diabetes, asthma, severe allergies, seizure disorders). For special diet requests, contact School Nutrition Services at 470-254-8960.

If your child rides the bus and carries emergency medications (e.g., inhalers, epinephrine, Diastat) or has serious health conditions the driver should be aware of (e.g., diabetes, seizure disorder, asthma, allergies), notify Transportation Services: North Transportation Services at 470-254-2970, and South Transportation Services at 470-254-6060.

New Georgia Law HB 1183, which was introduced last year, requires schools to provide information on Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes to parents/guardians of students in grades 6th- 12th. This information is posted on the Fulton County Schools website under District Health Services. The link is as follows: https://www.fultonschools.org/our-district/superintendent/district-health-services/parent-resources/diabetes-info

We ask that all medications and medical supplies be given/brought directly to the school clinic and not sent with students on the bus. If there is a situation where this is not possible, please contact your school clinic to make alternative arrangements.

STUDENT ILLNESS / INJURY

Students who show signs of illness — including a fever of 100.4°F or higher, diarrhea, vomiting, or a potentially contagious illness (such as rashes) must not be sent to school and will not be permitted to stay at school. To return to school, a student must:

- **Be symptom-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (such as Tylenol/acetaminophen or Advil/ibuprofen).**
- **Be free from diarrhea and vomiting for at least 24 hours.**
- **In some cases, obtain written clearance from a healthcare provider, especially for contagious illnesses or chronic/recurrent conditions.**

If a student becomes ill or injured during the school day, parents/legal guardians will be notified and must arrange immediate transportation home. A doctor's note may be required for re-entry after certain illnesses. In case of serious illness, accident, or emergency, 911 will be called, and your child may be transported by ambulance to an emergency facility if deemed necessary by EMS personnel. Parents/guardians are responsible for all related expenses. Parents must be on-site to decline EMS transport.

MEDICATIONS

When possible, students should take medications at home, including non-essential medications (vitamins, herbal supplements, essential oils, etc.). If medication must be administered at school, during field trips, or at a school-sponsored activity, the following policies apply:

- **Authorization for Medication Form (SHS-1):**
  - A parent/legal guardian must complete the "Authorization to Give Medication at School" form.
  - For prescription medications, a healthcare provider must also sign the form.
  - A faxed or emailed copy is acceptable if it includes the parent/legal guardian's signature.
  - A **separate form is required for each medication**, and forms must be renewed annually.
- **Medication Delivery and Storage:**
  - Parents/legal guardians must bring medications and completed authorization forms directly to the school clinic/office.
  - If direct delivery is not possible, instruct your child to take medications and forms immediately to the school clinic upon arrival.
  - **Controlled substances** (e.g., ADHD medications, prescribed painkillers, psychotropic drugs) must be delivered and stored securely by the school clinic.
  - Students should never share, display, or transport medications without proper authorization.

Fulton County Schools reserves the right to decline the administration of non-essential medications.

NOTE: In high schools, the *Authorization for Medication Form* must be used whenever supervision, storage, or administration of medication by school personnel is required. We strongly encourage all medications to be kept in the clinic unless they are approved emergency medications or over-the-counter medications that a student has permission to carry during school hours. (See the section below titled **"Authorization for Students to Carry Approved Emergency Medication or Other Approved Medication"** for further details.)

1. Medication Requirements:

- **Original Containers Only:** All medications must be provided in their original containers from the pharmacy or store. Non-prescription medications in small-sized containers are preferred due to limited storage space.
- **Labeling Requirements:**
  - Both prescription and non-prescription medications must have current, accurate labeling.
  - The medication name, dosage instructions, and student's name on the container must match exactly with the information on the Authorization for Medication Form.
  - Medications with expired labeling or discrepancies will not be administered.
  - Any changes in dosage require a new, updated prescription container and a new Authorization Form signed by the parent/guardian and/or healthcare provider.
- **Administration at School:**
  - At the designated time, students will report to the clinic to take their medication. School clinic personnel will assist or supervise the student based on the instructions provided on the authorization form. However, medication administration remains a parental responsibility.
  - Fulton County School System employees will not assume liability for supervising or administering medications, and FCS reserves the right to decline assistance with medication administration, except where required by law.

2. Medication Retrieval and Disposal:

- Discontinued medications should be picked up from the school clinic within one week of discontinuation.
- Any unused medication must be retrieved by the end of the school year. All medications remaining at the clinic after the school year ends will be discarded.

AUTHORIZATION FOR STUDENTS TO CARRY A PRESCRIPTION INHALER, EPI-PEN, INSULIN, OR OTHER APPROVED MEDICATION SHS-2 FORM

If your child has asthma, a severe allergy, or another health-related condition that requires self-administration of medication—or if your child needs to carry an emergency medication (such as an epinephrine auto-injector, Diastat, inhaler, Glucagon, etc.)—you must complete and submit the **Authorization for Students to Carry a Prescription Inhaler, Epinephrine, Insulin, or Other Approved Medication (SHS-2 Form)**.

Fulton County Schools retains the right to restrict students from carrying certain medications unless otherwise required by law.

The SHS-2 Form is available at your child's school and requires signatures from the physician, parent/legal guardian, and student for prescription medications. Parents are **strongly encouraged** to provide a **backup supply** of emergency medications (e.g., inhalers, epinephrine, Diastat, diabetes medication) to be kept in the school clinic. For further instructions, please call or visit your school clinic.

Over-the-counter (OTC) medications have different requirements. Elementary School Students: All over-the-counter medications must be stored in the school clinic and will only be administered with parental permission provided on the SHS-1 Form**; Middle School Students may carry Fulton County Schools-approved OTC medications during the school day, on field trips, or during other school-related activities with prior parental permission documented on the SHS-2 Form. High School Students may carry Fulton County Schools-approved OTC medications without a required form, provided the medications meet district guidelines**. ***Fulton County Schools approved medications include*** **acetaminophen, antacids, aspirin, cough or throat lozenges, ibuprofen, Midol, and oral antihistamines (Important – all medications must be in the original, labeled container and not expired).**

IMMUNIZATIONS

For enrollment in Fulton County Schools, students must have a **Certificate of Immunization (Form 3231)** that is either marked **"Complete for Attendance" or** has an **expiration date in the future. Expired certificates will not be accepted.** Effective **July 1, 2021**, all students entering or transferring into **11th grade** must provide proof of a **meningococcal booster (MCV4)**, unless the first dose was administered on or after their 16th birthday. We strongly encourage you not to delay in having your student vaccinated. Georgia law only allows two types of exemptions from immunization requirements: **Medical exemption** (must be documented by a healthcare provider) or **Religious exemption** (must be documented using the Department of Public Health Form 2208 – Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization), signed and notarized. Every student must have one of the following on file: A valid **Georgia Certificate of Immunization (Form 3231)** or a signed, notarized Religious Exemption - **Department of Public Health (Form 2208)**. Parents/legal guardians are also responsible for securing and maintaining a copy of the **Form 3300** – Vision, Hearing, Dental, and Nutrition Screening. Students who do not meet Georgia's immunization requirements will be **excluded from school** until the required updated documentation is provided, per state law. **For more information:** Visit the Georgia Department of Public Health Immunization Section: http://dph.georgia.gov/immunization-section or the Fulton County Schools website: www.fultonschools.org. Additionally, the new Georgia Code § 20-2-778 (2024) requires information to be shared with parents of students regarding meningococcal meningitis and influenza and their respective vaccines. For information on Meningitis, click: Meningitis Fact Sheet English, and for information on Influenza (the flu), click: Influenza Fact Sheet English. This information can also be found on our website: https://www.fultonschools.org/all-departments/academics/district-health-services/district-health-services-home. For specific questions, please contact your healthcare provider or local health department.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In the event of an emergency requiring us to **shelter-in-place** or stay at school for an extended period, it is important that we are prepared to care for your child. If your child needs medication (especially emergency medications) or a special medical procedure, please notify the school clinic. This includes all medications, whether scheduled during or outside of school hours. We need to ensure an adequate supply of emergency and daily medications.

Should a shelter-in-place decision be made, information will be provided by your child's school, the district, and local authorities.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit Ready.gov.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Student Accident Insurance can be purchased through K & K Insurance Group, Inc. This insurance protects medical expenses resulting from accidental injury to all students during school, school-sponsored events, and athletic activities. For those who have other insurance, this program will help cover deductibles and co-insurance. For those without insurance, this coverage provides needed benefits at a reasonable cost. For more information, contact the Risk Management Department at 470-254-0422 or K & K Insurance Group, Inc. at 855-742-3135.

By working together, we can ensure the health and well-being of students, enabling them to fully benefit from the learning environment. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your Cluster School Nurse, Special Education Nurse, School Clinic Assistant, or call the Department of District Health Services at 470-254-2177. If you need this document or information in a different language, please send an email to districtlanguageassistance@fultonschools.org or call 470-254-6827.

Thank you!