

School Health Policies

If you have any questions regarding the policies and procedures outlined below, please contact the school nurse at your school's health office.

Immunizations

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires that all children be properly immunized against varicella, measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DPT), and hepatitis B before entrance into school. Exemptions from immunizations are allowed under Commonwealth of Massachusetts Law for either religious or medical reasons, both of which require documentation. Unimmunized/susceptible individuals will be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of any vaccine preventable disease.

Massachusetts School Immunization Requirements

	Preschool	Kindergarten	Grades 1-6	Grades 7-12
Hepatitis B	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses
DTaP/DPT/DT/Td/Tdap	≥ 4 doses DTaP/DPT	5 doses DTaP/DPT	≥ 4 doses DTaP/DPT or ≥ 3 doses Td	4 doses DTaP/DPT <i>plus</i> 1 Tdap booster
Polio	≥ 3 doses	4 doses	≥ 3 doses	≥ 3 doses
Hib	1 to 4 doses	N/A	N/A	N/A
MMR	1 dose	2 doses	2 doses	2 doses
Varicella*	1 dose	2 doses	2 doses	2 doses

Physical Examinations

Physical exams are required prior to entry into kindergarten, 4th grade, 7th grade and 10th grade and for all students new to our schools.

Vision screening for distance visual acuity and ocular alignment/stereopsis within 12 months prior to kindergarten entry or within 30 days of the start of the school year.

Sports Physicals

In accordance with MIAA rules, all participants in interscholastic sports must pass a physical examination by a physician within the 365 days proceeding the first day of tryouts for a sport.

Screenings

State mandated screening are conducted for vision annually K-5, once in grades 6-8, once in grades 9-12; hearing annually in grades K-3, once in grades 6-8, once in grades 9-12; height and weight in grades 1, 4, 7, and 10. Postural screening for scoliosis is mandated in grades 5-9.

First Aid/Illness/Dismissal

Assessment and treatment are provided for minor injuries or illnesses during the school day. If a student becomes ill or is seriously injured his/her parent or guardian is notified immediately. If a parent cannot be reached in an emergency, the child will be transported to the appropriate medical facility. The nurse will

dismiss any child who is too ill to be in school, requires further assessment or treatment for an illness or injury, or is considered to be contagious or susceptible to disease. Timely health bulletins will be sent home to inform parents of any public health issues.

Special Medical Considerations

Parents of a child with any medical condition that may require special attention or planning should contact the school nurse as soon as possible. This includes conditions such as asthma, severe allergies, seizure disorders or diabetes. An Individualized Health Care Plan and/or a medical 504 Plan is developed collaboratively with school, family and health care provider. Parents should also notify the school nurse of any changes in their child's daily medications or medical conditions. The *Massachusetts Asthma Action Plan* is to be completed by your health care provider for students with asthma.

Medication Policy

Winthrop Public Schools' medication policy complies with the state guidelines to ensure the health and safety of all students requiring medication in school. All medications, including inhalers and antibiotics need to be housed in the school health office. Medications will be dispensed by the school nurse. A written order from the physician is necessary for prescription medications requiring daily or as needed administration during school hours. If the medication is short term (i.e. antibiotics), the medication should be delivered to the health office in a pharmacy-labeled container along with written permission from the parent. Short term over-the-counter medications such as cold remedies, eye drops, decongestants or cough syrup should be supplied in the original packaging with a note including the name of the student, the name of the medication, and instructions regarding the dosage and time at which the medication should be given. No students will be allowed to self-administer any medication without prior approval of the school nurse.

All prescription and herbal medication must be brought to the Health Office or School Office by a parent or guardian in a container with the official prescription label on it. If necessary, ask your pharmacist to give you a duplicate container for safe storage of the medication at home and school. The school cannot dispense medication that does not have the prescription label on the package. Inhalers will be stored in the health office unless the school nurse and parent mutually agree to alternate storage. The nurse will notify parents or others identified on a student's emergency card prior to administering any over-the-counter medication covered in the WPS medication policy and protocol.

Under no circumstances shall a child be sent to school with medication without prior notification of the school nurse. Children found in possession of unauthorized medications on school grounds or at school sponsored events may be subject to discipline.