

BISD Health Policy

COMMON HEALTH CONCERNS FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

One of the primary concerns not only of parents, but also for the staff of our district, is the health and safety of all students. The information below will help address some of the questions or issues you may have:

- When should I keep my child home from school because of illness?

In order for your child to be available for learning and to control communicable disease in school, it is very important for you to keep your child at home for the following reasons::

With a temperature of 100.4 or more, your child should remain at home in bed for the day and should be free of fever (without medication) for 24 hours before returning to school, as many children rebound with a temperature.

If your child has been diagnosed with a strep infection, he/she should be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.

If your child has vomited during the night or in the morning, he/she should remain at home.

If your child has persistent diarrhea during the night and into the morning, he/she should stay home.

If your child has red, swollen eyes that itch **and** are draining pus, he/she should remain home from school.

If your child has been diagnosed with scabies or lice, he/she should remain at home until treated.

If your child has been diagnosed with a communicable or contagious illness, contact the school nurse to discuss whether or not your child must have a physician's release to return to school. Examples include but are not limited to the following: chicken pox, impetigo, scabies, mononucleosis, hepatitis, lice, pink-eye, and ringworm.

- What if my child requires medication during school hours?

We attempt to discourage the administration of medication at school. If your child's medicine can be taken at home (i.e. medication taken 2-3 times a day) please administer it at home. However, if your physician decides it is necessary for your child to receive medication during the school day, the approval and specific directions must be provided to the school.

Medications must be sent in the original container with the appropriate prescription label. The school district requires a signed and dated permission be provided by the parent/guardian before any medication is administered at school. The permission slip is valid for one school year.

Medication used on an "as needed" basis (i.e. Tylenol, Mylanta, cough/cold preparations) must be provided by the parent/guardian and for temporary use only. **The medicine must be in its original container and a permission slip must be signed. The school district DOES NOT supply ANY medication. No medications brought in plastic bags will be administered.**

All medication must be kept in the nurses office....no medication may be carried by the student....this includes any over the counter or prescription medication.

- What happens if my child should get sick at school?

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When a child becomes ill at school, the student must see the school nurse before going home. This is necessary due to required documentation on the student's permanent record. When it is determined that a student should be sent home as a result of illness or injury, a parent/guardian will be contacted by the school nurse. Please make sure your address and phone number are current on the school records.

It is our policy that if the student becomes ill at school, he or she is to see the nurse before calling home. This is necessary so we can know where a child is if he or she is "all of a sudden" missing from school.

*How do I know if my child has head lice?

Between 8-12 million children get head lice each year. Getting lice can and does happen to any child and is nothing to panic over or be embarrassed about. The more you know, the better prepared you will be to deal with it.

Lice cannot fly or jump from one person to another. They can only crawl and be passed around on shared combs, brushes, hats, or direct head to head contact. Lice are tiny bugs that live on the human scalp. The eggs they hatch are called nits. The most common symptom of lice infestation is itching. If you notice your child scratching his/her head often, especially behind the ears or at the nape of the neck, you should check for lice and nits. The eggs are found on the hair shaft and are small, translucent dots that DO NOT flake off.

To treat head lice infestation, you must use a product formulated to kill lice and their eggs (nits). The nits must be removed manually from the hair. It is important not to overuse the lice removal medication. Having lice does not have any relation to cleanliness, race, economic status. If someone in your family has lice, please contact the school nurse for further information. Your child must be lice free before returning to school.

*When do the children get their vision and hearing tested?

The state of Texas requires vision and hearing screening for all students in Kindergarten, 1st grade, 3rd grade, 5th grade, 7th grade and all first time entrants into BISD. If your child fails either the vision or hearing test two times, a referral letter will be sent home. This letter will include a section for your physician to fill out. The completed form will need to be returned to the school nurse ASAP.

* When are the students screened for scoliosis?

All students in the 6th grade and freshman will be screened for scoliosis. Parents will be notified prior to the screening of the dates and instructions for the screening. If your child fails the test two times, a referral letter will be sent home. This letter will include a section for your physician to fill out. The completed form will need to be returned to the nurse ASAP.

- Immunizations

Students must be up-to-date on their immunizations in order to remain enrolled at BISD.

Texas Immunization Requirements

Please click the following link for current Texas state requirements:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's health, please contact the school nurse.