

Medications Policy

Collegium Charter School recognizes that students may have various medication needs throughout their school attendance. The nurse, by PA state law, shall not be responsible for the diagnosis of any student illness.

The dispensing of prescribed medication, in accordance with the written instructions of the prescribing physician or dentist, to a student will be permitted during school hours only when failure to take such medication would jeopardize the health of the student or the student would not be able to attend school if the medicine were not made available during school hours.

Whenever possible, medications should be scheduled so as to be administered at home and not brought to school. Since this is not always possible or practical, the following policy is adopted to provide necessary medication in a supervised fashion.

Dispensing of any medication will require a note from a parent/guardian AND the physician or dentist prescribing the medication. No prescription medication will be administered without an authorization. The authorizing note must contain the name of the medication and instructions for dispensing. The medication must be in the original container and labeled with the child's name. The school nurse may contact the parent with advance notice of the need for a refill. At the discretion of the school nurse, a parent may be requested to bring the medication to school. The school nurse, who will contact the parents/guardians with any questions or concerns, will count the medications (tablets, capsules & liquids) with an adult witness upon receipt. A written record will be kept of the number of medications sent in to school with each refill.

Over-the-counter medications require a parent note with the student's name, name of the medication, what it is for, how much is to be given and how often. These must also be in the original container.

Under this policy, homeopathic preparations are considered "medications". It is encouraged that these preparations be given at home. If necessary to be provided at school, a parent's note and physician/dentist order are both required. The preparation must be in the original container.

Any medication sent to school without the required notes/orders will not be administered and will be returned home. The parent/guardian will be notified.

The school nurse will dispense medications. If the nurse is not available, efforts will be made to provide a substitute. In the absence of a nurse the parent/guardian may be requested to come to school to administer the medication. Nurses have the right to question any medication they believe to be detrimental to a student.

Emergency medications such as inhalers and *Epipen/Anakit* that require immediate dispensing are permitted to be carried by the student on their person, with **prior** arrangement. A physician's note with dosage and instructions, and a parent/guardian approval note are both required. The school nurse will make the principal and the teachers aware of these arrangements. Prior approval is required before the student carries such medications on their person.

Except for the emergency medications mentioned above, students are not permitted to carry ANY medications in school. This includes, but is not limited to, medications such as aspirin, *Tylenol*, ibuprofen, antacids, etc. Cough lozenges are not considered medication. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action.

Field trips are special circumstances that may not be accommodated by the in-school medication policy. Field trips with students who require medication will follow a prescribed course of action:

- Adjust the time of dispensing the medication, OR
- The parent/guardian may be requested to accompany the child on the trip, OR
- If the parent/guardian is unable to accompany the student, the matter will be referred to the principal for final disposition.

The school nurse or the principal may consult the school physician at any time with questions or concerns regarding medication administered in school.