PALCS Health Services Policy:

Mission of School Health Services:

"School Nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well-being, academic success, and life-long achievement of students. To that end, school nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self management, self advocacy and learning."

National Association of School Nurses

Immunizations:

All students must comply with the requirements of the State Immunization Code (28 PA Code, Ch 23). Complete immunization records must be delivered to the school prior to a students' acceptance for enrollment. It is the parent's responsibility to notify PALCS nurses when new immunizations have been administered to their child.

Children in all grades need the following immunizations to attend school 2011/2012:

- 4 doses Tetanus-1 dose given after the 4th birthday (DTP, DTaP, DT, Td)
- 4 doses Diphtheria- 1 dose given after the 4th birthday (DTP, DTaP, DT, Td)
- 3 doses Polio (OPV, IPV)
- 3 doses Hepatitis B (properly spaced)
- 2 doses Measles, Mumps, Rubella, preferably as the combined MMR (both doses must be administered after the child's 1st birthday)
- 2 doses Varicella (Chicken Pox) or proof of having had the disease

In addition, students entering 7th grade for the 2011-2012 school year require:

- 1 dose Tetanus, Diphtheria, Accellular Pertussis (Tdap, Adacel, Boostrix)
- 1 dose Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV, Menactra)

There are two exceptions to the immunization requirement, both of which require adequate documentation.

Medical Exemptions- must be signed by a physician or physicians' designee. Once the physician determines that the immunization is no longer detrimental to the health of the child, the child shall be immunized according to PA law.

Religious Exemptions- must be based on a religious belief or a strong moral or ethical conviction similar to a religious belief and submitted in writing, signed by a parent/guardian.

**If a child is exempt from an immunization, in the event of an outbreak of that disease, students attending on-site facilities or school activities may be excluded according to the PA Department of Health recommendations.

Health Screening Requirements:

For each student transferring to PA Leadership Charter School, we will request an adequate health record from the previous school. Health Services will accept reports of privately conducted physical and dental examinations within one year prior to a student's entry into the grade when an exam is required.

In compliance with School Code, all students are required to follow the state's health and dental exam policies:

- Each child shall submit to the school nurse a comprehensive dental examination upon original entry into school and while in the third and seventh grades.
- Each child shall submit to the school nurse a comprehensive physical examination upon original entry into school and while in the sixth and eleventh grades.
- In compliance with PA Public School Code, PALCS offers dental and physical exams arranged by the West Chester or Pittsburgh school nurse with parents' written request. Parents/Guardians of students who require physical or dental exams shall be notified of the date, time and location of scheduled school health exams. The parent/guardian may choose to attend the school exams with their child, or may opt to provide Health Services with a copy of a privately conducted exam at the parent's expense. To promote continuity of care for your child, PALCS Health Services recommends private exams scheduled with your family physicians and dentists.
- These exams should follow the timelines established by the school for the respective year requested and should not carry over from year to year.
- A student who presents a statement signed by his/her parent or guardian that a medical examination is contrary to his/her religious or moral beliefs shall be examined only if the Secretary of Health determines that the student presents a substantial health threat to the health of other persons.

In Addition:

- All students must have yearly far and near point vision screenings and height/weight, BMI(Body Mass Index) screenings.
- All students in Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th and 11th grades must have documented hearing screening results on file with the school nurse.
- All students in grades 6 and 7 must have a scoliosis screening; the results are to be reported, in writing, to the school nurse.

Annual Health Screening results may be performed during your child's annual physical exam and results sent to PALCS Health Services. PALCS nurses will schedule health screenings to be performed in the nearest PALCS facility, at parent/guardian request.

PALCS faculty and staff observe students for conditions that indicate defect or disability and are instructed to promptly report such conditions to the school nurse. All student health information is maintained as a confidential health record and its contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the student or at the request of the parent/guardian to a physician.

All Health forms are available in Moodle>INFO Center>Health Center

Emergency Care Forms

An Emergency Care Form is kept on file in the health office for each PALCS student. Each year we request that the forms be completed and returned to PALCS prior to the first day of school. At the University Scholars Program, the Center for Performing and Fine Arts Center, and any on site school activities, the emergency form is used to contact the parent/guardian if a student becomes ill or sustains injury. It is our first and most important resource during an emergency. Please remember to update any changes to your child's emergency contacts or health history during the course of the school year.

First Aid and Illness

First aid is defined as immediate, temporary care given in case of an accident or sudden illness. First aid will be given by the school nurse or designated assistant following PALCS Health Procedure guidelines. If emergency care is deemed necessary for the student, school personnel will attempt to contact the parent/guardian or other contacts listed on the Emergency Care Form, including the doctor. If we are not able to reach your listed contacts, in an emergency, we will make the arrangements necessary to assist your child, at no expense to PALCS. Children should not attend school or field trips when they are ill or when they are not well enough to participate. A child should not have a fever and/or vomiting, diarrhea, or rash for at least 24 hours prior to returning to school to prevent the spread of infection.

When a child exhibits any of the following symptoms, he/she should be kept at home. Some general guidelines are:

- **Fevers:** A child running a fever of 100 degrees or higher should stay home.
 - A child running a fever of 99+ degrees may have trouble keeping up with normal school activities and may well become sick before the day is over.
 - A child with a low grade fever (99+ degrees) combined with other symptoms, should stay home.
 - The rule of thumb is: "Fever free for 24 hours without medications" before returning to school.
- Severe or Persistent Coughing
- Congestion or Very Runny Nose
- Unexplained Rashes
- Contagious Disease or Infection
- Untreated Head Lice

Please alert Health Services if your child has chicken pox, head lice, or any other communicable disease. Children with communicable diseases will be excluded from school or school activities.

Allergies: For students who attend school activities or on-site programs and who have serious allergies, i.e. nuts or latex, parents/guardians should contact the school nurse to discuss appropriate accommodations necessary for their child's well being.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: STUDENTS ARE EXCLUDED FROM ON-SITE SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Strep Throat: 24 hours after prescription antibiotics are started

Conjunctivitis: 24 hours after prescription antibiotics are started and eye discharge is gone

Head Lice: Until the condition has been treated with a pediculicide or approved shampoo

Impetigo: Until adequately treated by a physician and lesions are no longer draining

Ringworm: Until adequately treated by a physician

Chicken Pox: Until all lesions are dry (usually at least six days)

Scarlet Fever: 24 hours after prescription antibiotics are started

Scabies: Until adequately treated by a physician

Pertussis: Until first five days of prescription antibiotic have been completed

Medications: School and Field Trips

It is recommended that no medications be given during school hours; most medications can be given prior to or after school hours. The Pennsylvania Department of Health has issued new guidelines for medication administration in schools which the Department of Education and PA law support.

NO MEDICATION WILL BE GIVEN IN SCHOOLWITHOUT WRITTEN CONSENT FROM A PARENT/GUARDIAN AND SPECIFIC WRITTEN ORDERS FROM A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

This refers to any medication, whether **prescription or over-the-counter**, that is to be administered to a student while attending a PALCS sponsored function i.e. field trips without parent supervision, the University Scholars Program or Center for Performing and Fine Arts. **Each medication must be accompanied by a copy of the physicians' authorization and directions for administration and the parents'/guardians' written permission for their child to receive the medication. (Medication Authorization Form)**

If a medication must be given during school or during a school field trip, it must be in its original container accompanied by a completed Medication Authorization Form.

PALCS school physician has approved that students may receive Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Benadryl or Tums as directed on the bottle while attending school sites with their parents/guardians' written permission.

NO medications will be sent from PALCS Health Services for field trips; it is the parents' responsibility to provide any medication their child may need during a field trip accompanied by a completed Medication Authorization Form.

Please contact the school nurse with any questions regarding health requirements or the medication policy.

Medication Authorization Forms: Print, Complete and Return to Health Services

MOODLE>INFO CENTER>HEALTH CENTER>FORMS