

**Policy Outline**

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**I. Policy Value Statement**

The Board of Education of Howard County (Board) recognizes the relationship between student health and student academic achievement. Optimal health and safety is the shared responsibility of the individual, the family, and the school system. The Board affirms its intention to provide, with the assistance of the Howard County Health Department (HCHD), health services in compliance with statutory and regulatory mandates for students with the primary goal of supporting students' participation in the educational process.

The Board affirms its intention to provide necessary emergency health care within the scope of the health services program.

**II. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the provision of health care in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) as outlined under existing federal, State, and local laws and regulations as well as school system policies.

**III. Standards**

- A. The school health services program will support student participation in the educational process through prevention, identification, early intervention, and remediation of specific health problems. School health services will be provided for all students within the educational setting in accordance with COMAR. These services include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - 1. A health record will be created for each enrolled student. Health records will be reviewed and maintained in accordance with State requirements.

2. A health appraisal for each student identified through the review of records as having health problems or concerns will be conducted in accordance with state requirements. Health services will be provided in accordance with the appraisal.
  3. Health screenings of students will be carried out in accordance with State-mandated requirements, including screenings for immunization, physical examination, lead, and health care provider.
  4. Communicable disease prevention and control in the school setting will be provided jointly by the HCHD and the HCPSS.
  5. Written procedures for emergency care management will be jointly developed by the HCPSS and HCHD and implemented by the HCPSS.
  6. Maryland Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) will be implemented for students as ordered in compliance with Maryland State Health Services Guidelines.
  7. Issues of parental consent and confidentiality will be addressed in accordance with State regulations and Policy 9050 Student Records.
  8. Each school will maintain a separate health suite in compliance with State requirements.
- B. Licensure and certification of nurses and health assistants will be maintained in accordance with State and system requirements.
- C. Nurses may only delegate nursing tasks to health assistants and other unlicensed HCPSS school employees in accordance with the Maryland Nurse Practice Act of the Health Occupations Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.
- D. Nurses or health assistants, or designated HCPSS employees will provide health services to HCPSS students during the school day. Under COMAR 10.27.11.03, the nurse may delegate the responsibility to perform a nursing task to a health assistant and other unlicensed HCPSS school-based employee.
- E. HCPSS will supply State-mandated emergency medications for use in the school setting in accordance with State law.
- F. The school nurse, school health personnel, and other authorized individuals will be trained to administer State-mandated emergency medications to a student or other person located on school property who is reasonably believed to be experiencing a medical emergency.

- G. At least one HCPSS employee assigned to each school, other than nurses and school health assistants, will be currently certified both in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) according to State standards.
- H. The Health Services Office, in consultation with the Office of Safety and Security, will develop and implement procedures for exposure incidents involving blood and body fluid exposures for students and HCPSS employees in compliance with the Health Services Requirements and Procedures Manual, the Maryland State School Health Services Guidelines, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations.
- I. Nurses or health assistants will provide emergency first aid to HCPSS employees and visitors within the scope of their licensure/certification and employment.
- J. Nurses or health assistants, or designated HCPSS employees will provide emergency medication or treatment for diagnosed medical conditions to HCPSS employees only in accordance with the HCPSS Health Services Requirements and Procedures Manual.
- K. HCPSS health services employees will address health related issues through classroom, small group, and individual education. Health services employees will collaborate with instructional employees to provide such education as appropriate.
- L. Activities of HCPSS health services employees related to provision of health services will have precedence over non-health care activities.
- M. Professional development will be provided for nurses and health assistants to enable them to implement policy.
- N. Supervision and formal evaluation of nurses and health assistants will be provided in accordance with Maryland Board of Nursing and HCPSS requirements.
- O. School health services program information will be disseminated annually.

**V. Responsibilities**

- A. The health services coordinator/designee will supervise and evaluate professional registered nurses.
- B. The health services coordinator will develop and implement periodic audits of the Health Services Requirements and Procedures Manual as deemed appropriate.
- C. The health services coordinator will ensure that appropriate professional development is provided to health assistants and nurses.
- D. School-based administrators will provide written input into the annual evaluation of nurses and health assistants assigned to their schools.

- E. Nurses will supervise and formally evaluate health assistants.
- F. Nurses will ensure compliance with health services procedures and State-mandated services in the schools to which they are assigned.
- G. The Superintendent will appoint a Health Services Office representative to the Howard County School Health Council (HCSHC).

## **VI. Delegation of Authority**

The Superintendent is authorized to develop appropriate procedures for the implementation of this policy within the limits set forth by this policy.

## **VII. Definitions**

Within the context of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- A. Emergency – A serious health situation or occurrence that happens unexpectedly and demands immediate attention.
- B. Exposure Incident – A specific contact between blood and/or other potentially infectious material (OPIM) and the eye, mouth, or other mucous membrane, non-intact (i.e., broken or cut) skin, vein, or muscle.
- C. HCPSS Employee – Any individual who is a permanent or temporary employee of the HCPSS whose compensation is paid in whole or part by the Board, including but not limited to, school-based administrators, teachers, substitute teachers, paraeducators, and other school-based and Central Office support staff.
- D. Health Appraisal – The process by which a designated school health services professional identifies health problems that may interfere with learning.
- E. Health Assistant – An individual who is both a certified nursing assistant and certificated medication technician and is assigned to a school to provide delegated nursing services under the supervision of a nurse. May also be an individual who is a licensed practical nurse who is assigned to a school to provide nursing services under the supervision of a registered nurse.
- F. Health Records – State mandated health screening forms such as immunization records, hearing and vision screening records, and other documents, including but not limited to medication administration records, individual health care plans, medical reports, and documentation of health room visits.
- G. Howard County School Health Council (HCSHC) – An advisory committee developed by the Superintendent of Schools and the Health Officer of the HCHD in accordance with the requirements of COMAR 13A.05.05.13 to advise the Superintendent and

Health Officer. HCSHC is comprised of parents, community professionals, students, and representatives from the HCHD and the HCPSS.

- H. Nurse – An individual licensed by the Maryland Board of Nursing (MBON) to practice nursing as a registered nurse in accordance with COMAR 10.27.09. HCPSS nurses practice in one of the following capacities: school nurse, Cedar Lane nurse, or float nurse.
- I. Parent – Any one of the following recognized as the adult(s) legally responsible for the student:
  - 1. Biological Parent – A natural parent whose parental rights have not been terminated.
  - 2. Adoptive Parent – A person who has legally adopted the student and whose parental rights have not been terminated.
  - 3. Custodian – A person or an agency appointed by the court as the legal custodian of the student and granted parental rights and responsibilities.
  - 4. Guardian – A person who has been placed by the court in charge of the affairs of the student and granted parental rights and responsibilities.
  - 5. Caregiver – An adult resident of Howard County who exercises care, custody, or control over the student but who is neither the biological parent nor legal guardian as long as the person satisfies the requirements of the Education Article, §7-101 (c) (Informal Kinship Care) or has been issued a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Verification of Release form entering into a custodial arrangement with the federal government.
  - 6. Foster Parent – An adult approved to care for a child who has been placed in the home by a State agency or a licensed child placement as provided by the Family Law Article, §5-507.
- J. School Nurse – A HCPSS nurse who holds a bachelor degree and provides nursing care to one or two assigned schools.
- K. Screening – A procedure used to identify students who are at risk of having a health problem. Examples of screenings include, but are not limited to, hearing and vision, lead poisoning prevention, immunization compliance, and review of physical examination.
- L. Unlicensed HCPSS School Employees – Individuals who are not licensed but are trained to function in a supportive role by providing patient/client care activities as delegated by the registered nurse.

## VII. References

- A. Legal  
The Regulations of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Title 34 C.F.R., Public Welfare, Part 99 (Privacy Rights of Parents and Students)

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. §§1400 et seq.  
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990  
Md. Ann. Code, Education Article, §7-401 to §7-403.1, §7-411,  
§7-426.5  
Md. Ann. Code, Health Occupations Article, Title 8, Nurse  
Practice Act  
COMAR 10.27.09  
COMAR 10.27.11.03  
COMAR 13A.05.05–15, School Health Standards  
COMAR 13A.08.02, Individual Student Records  
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)

- B. Board Policies
  - Policy 1050 Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Free Environment
  - Policy 5120 Communicable Diseases – Prevention and Control
  - Policy 7030 Employee Conduct and Discipline
  - Policy 8100 Field Trips
  - Policy 9050 Student Records
  - Policy 9090 Wellness through Nutrition and Physical Activity
- C. Relevant Data Sources
- D. Other
  - HCPSS Student & Parent Handbook
  - Health Services Requirements and Procedures Manual
  - Maryland Board of Nursing Nurse Practice Act
  - Maryland State School Health Services Guidelines
  - National Safety Council Recommendations
  - Occupational Safety and Health Administrator (OSHA)
  - Worker’s Compensation First Report of Injury or Illness Report and  
Employee Injury Reports

**VIII. History<sup>1</sup>**

ADOPTED: August 3, 1971  
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September 19, 2017  
November 7, 2019  
June 12, 2025  
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<sup>1</sup> Key: ***Adopted***-Original date the Board took action to approve a policy; ***Reviewed***-The date the status of a policy was assessed by the Superintendent's Standing Policy Group; ***Modified***-The date the Board took action to alter a policy that based on the recommendation of the Superintendent/designee did not require a comprehensive examination; ***Revised***-The date the Board took action on a policy that based on the recommendation of the Superintendent/designee needed a comprehensive examination; ***Effective***-The date a policy is implemented throughout the HCPSS, typically July 1 following Board action.

**HEALTH SERVICES**Effective: June 12, 2025

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**I. Provision of Health Care****A. Students**

1. The health assistant or nurse will conduct an initial review of student health records. If students are identified as having special health needs, the procedures under Section I.A.9. below will be followed.
2. Health services and services provided by the school-based wellness centers and TeleHealth Centers will be provided in accordance with current guidelines found in the Health Services Requirements and Procedures Manual.
3. First aid and management of exposure incidents must be provided in accordance with guidelines in the Health Services Requirements and Procedures Manual, the Maryland State School Health Services Guidelines, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations.
4. Students who are in need of health care during the school day should be sent to the health suite with a pass except in the case of an emergency.
5. Students will have their health needs determined by the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) health services employee on duty.
6. Students who receive health care from HCPSS health services employees will have their admission to the health suite recorded on the daily log. Information regarding the care provided will be recorded on the individual student health records as appropriate.
7. 911 will be called immediately if the needs of the student are determined to be sufficiently serious to require emergency medical services. Parents will be notified as soon as possible once the safety of the student is established. An administrator and the Office of Safety and Security will be notified of 911 calls as soon as possible.

Maryland Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) will be implemented for students as ordered in compliance with Maryland State Health Services Guidelines.



8. Once care has been given, the student will be returned to class with a pass. If the student cannot return to class due to the nature or seriousness of the problem, the parent will be contacted to make arrangements for early dismissal.
9. Special Health Needs: The school nurse or Cedar Lane nurse will complete a health appraisal for all students with special health needs in accordance with Maryland State School Health Standards requirements and Maryland Board of Nursing Standards of Care. Special health needs are temporary or long-term health problems arising from physical, emotional, or social factors or any combination of these factors. Students with special health needs may or may not be enrolled in a special education program. Identification may include referrals from parents, employees, and community professionals. Any student with complex health needs that cannot be met with current staffing and/or in the current school setting will be referred to the health services coordinator in order to develop a plan of care.

B. HCPSS Employees and Visitors

1. Care is only provided within the limits of existing resources and staffing.
2. Nurses or health assistants will provide emergency first aid to HCPSS employees and visitors within the scope of their licensure/certification and employment.
3. HCPSS employees with diagnosed medical conditions that could result in episodes requiring the provision of emergency medication or treatment may request a medical accommodation by contacting the Office of Safety and Security. Services approved as reasonable accommodations will be provided consistent with doctor's orders and within the licensure of HCPSS employees.
4. First aid care will be provided in accordance with current guidelines found in the Guidelines for Emergency Care in Maryland Schools and the Health Services Requirements and Procedures Manual.
5. 911 will be called immediately if the needs of the HCPSS employee or visitor are determined to be sufficiently serious to require emergency medical services. An administrator and the Office of Safety and Security will be informed of 911 calls as soon as possible.
6. When HCPSS employees and visitors receive health services, a record of the care provided will be maintained. Worker's Compensation First Report of Injury or Illness and Employee Injury Reports will be completed as appropriate.

## **II. Mandated Programs**

- A. The health services coordinator/designee will ensure that guidelines and procedures for the implementation of State-mandated programs and activities, including documentation of immunization compliance, are current. The health services coordinator/designee will collaborate with school-based administrators, the Howard County Health Department (HCHD), the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) when reviewing the guidelines and procedures.
- B. The school-based administrator and the health services coordinator/designee will work collaboratively to ensure that mandated programs are effectively implemented.
- C. Designated school health professionals in the Health Services Office will make required reports to the HCHD, the MSDE, and the MDH according to current guidelines and instruction.

## **III. State-Mandated Emergency Rescue Medications**

- A. The health services coordinator/designee will ensure that stock emergency medication will be stored and accessible in each school.
- B. Adequate training will be provided to designated HCPSS employees regarding the use of stock emergency medications.
- C. All school health personnel will be trained in the administration of stock emergency medications.
- D. HCPSS will ensure that each school will provide notification to parents as required by law.

## **IV. Records**

- A. Each enrolled student must have a student health record.
  - 1. If a student enrolls and does not have a health record, one must be developed.
  - 2. Students who are registered but not enrolled and who are receiving related services such as speech, occupational therapy, or physical therapy must have a health record, which includes, at a minimum, an immunization record.
  - 3. Students who are enrolled in the HCPSS and are engaging totally in education programs and services off campus are required to have a health record maintained at the student's assigned school.

4. Parents of students who are transferring from other HCPSS schools will have health records transferred to the receiving school at the time of transfer, using procedures described in Policy 9050 Student Records.
- B. Each student health record will include all State and locally mandated health records, forms, and certificates. Other forms and documents such as parent notes, reports to parents, medical reports, medication orders, etc., will be added to the record as they are generated or received.
- C. A separate individual health record will be maintained in the health suite for each student enrolled in every school.
- D. Access to health records is guided by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and Policy 9050.
- E. When students withdraw, transfer, or graduate, the health record will be managed in accordance with Policy 9050.

## **V. Supervision and Evaluation**

- A. Health Assistants
  1. School nurses are responsible for supervising and evaluating health assistants in one or more schools.
  2. The frequency and duration of supervision activities are dependent upon Maryland Board of Nursing Criteria for Delegation.
  3. The process used by school nurses to monitor the performance of health assistants may include observation, review of records, and consultation with health services supervisors and school-based administrators.
  4. Criteria for evaluation will include and will comply with the evaluation tool designed for the purpose.
  5. A formal evaluation will be conducted annually.
  6. Principals/designees will provide written input to the annual evaluations using a form developed for that purpose. Principals will meet with health assistants to discuss their input and sign the forms.
  7. Health assistants and principals will receive copies of signed evaluations. Originals will be filed in their personnel file.
  8. School nurses will confer with health services supervisors regarding the development of action plans and for any evaluation with Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory overall ratings.

**B. Nurses**

1. The health services coordinator/designee is responsible for supervising and evaluating school nurses and Cedar Lane nurses.
2. The frequency and duration of supervisory visits will be determined according to specific needs.
3. The process used to monitor the performance of nurses may include observation, review of records, and consultation with school-based administrators.
4. Criteria for evaluation will include compliance with Health Services Performance Standards and will be established using an evaluation tool.
5. Principals will provide written input to the annual evaluations using a form developed for that purpose. Principals will meet with nurses to discuss their input and sign the form.
6. Nurses and principals will receive copies of signed evaluations. Originals will be filed in the personnel file.

**VI. Licensure, Certification, and Professional Development**

- A. Nurses and health assistants must maintain current licensure and/or certification according to Maryland Board of Nursing requirements.
- B. Health assistants must maintain current certification in first aid, Basic Life Support, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) from an approved program. Nurses must maintain current certification in Basic Life Support, CPR, and the use of an AED from an approved program.
- C. Professional development will be offered on a regular basis.
- D. Nursing tasks will only be delegated in accordance with the Maryland Board of Nursing Nurse Practice Act. Training will be provided by the nurse to a health assistant or other unlicensed HCPSS school-based employees when a nursing task is delegated.

**VII. Health Room Coverage**

- A. When a health assistant or school nurse is absent for a half day or more, every effort will be made to provide coverage for the health room. The school nurse will be notified and plans put into place to provide care for students with special health needs.

- B. In the absence of a school nurse, arrangements will be made for temporary supervision of affected health assistants by a float nurse or another school nurse.
- C. There may be times when health room coverage by HCPSS health services employees is not available. School nurses and principals are responsible for developing a plan for providing basic services in these situations.

#### **VIII. Communication**

- A. The Health Services Requirements and Procedures Manual will be available in each school in the health suite and on the school system website. This manual will provide specific information and direction for the provision of health care in the school setting. The manual will be revised and updated as necessary to be consistent with current standards of nursing and medical practice, and to reflect current State and federal requirements.
- B. Basic information regarding health services, including screening requirements and medication administration, will be published in the HCPSS Student & Parent Handbook and on the school system website.

#### **IX. Definitions**

Within the context of these implementation procedures, the following definitions apply:

- A. Float Nurse – A HCPSS nurse assigned by the Health Services Office in various locations to provide nursing coverage.
- B. School-Based Wellness Center (SBWC) – Health centers that are located in a school or on a school campus, which provide onsite comprehensive preventive and primary health services.
- C. State-Mandated Emergency Rescue Medications – HCPSS will stock emergency medication deemed necessary by State Law.
- D. Telehealth Centers – The use of information and communication technology as a two-way connection between a student and nurse at school and a doctor at another location for the provision of health care.

#### **X. Monitoring**

Policy 5100 implementation procedures will be overseen by the Division of Schools.

## **XI. History<sup>1</sup>**

ADOPTED: December 10, 1992  
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