

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

The Board of Education contracts annually with the Monroe Health Center to provide health services for school pupils. Each school is visited by a nurse once each month. The principal is notified of the date the nurse will be at the school. Also, nurses are subject to emergency health calls by school principals.

Inasmuch as the state law requires that all children entering school for the first time be immunized against specific diseases, some of the nurses time is spent in carrying out this and other immunization programs.

During the school year when communicable diseases are prevalent, the nurses make an effort to see that the pupils, teachers, and parents are aware of the symptoms, care, treatment, and prevention of such diseases.

The health nurses are available for conferences with teachers and parents. These conferences are devoted to an exchange of views and observations of those pupils who have a specific health or psychological problem. In many instances following the teacher-nurse conference, home visits are made to discuss the pupil's condition with the parents and assist when necessary in securing correction of any defects the child might have. While in the home the nurse is in a position to give health instruction to the entire family. She may also refer any specific information back to the teacher, who in turn will be able to do a better job of teaching the child.

Upon request of the principal, the nurse will conduct periodic inspections of pupils that can be done without the aid of a physician. These include eyes, teeth, throat, skin, and general appearance of the pupil. The parents are notified of any defect found and asked to take the child to their family physician or dentist for further examination and diagnosis. The necessary follow-up visits are made by the health nurse.

At every opportunity the nurse gives health talks to the pupils on whatever subject is pertinent at the time. The pupils are encouraged to ask questions about their own health problems so they may develop a more scientific attitude toward health.

In addition to visits made to the schools, the nurses are available to discuss and assist with any health problems that might arise in the schools.

Exclusion of Pupils with Infectious Disease

Subject to the rules of the State Board of Education, the teacher of the school, or the principal of a graded school or high school, shall exclude from the school any pupil known to have or suspected of having any infectious disease, or any pupil who has been exposed to such disease and shall immediately notify the parents to take the child to their family physician. Any pupil so excluded shall not be readmitted to school by the teacher or principal thereof until such pupil has complied with all the requirements of the rules governing such cases, or has presented a certificate of health signed by the family physician or other proper health officer.

Immunization and Tuberculin Skin Test

The West Virginia State Law requires that all children entering school for the first time be immunized against diphtheria, polio, rubeola, rubella, tetanus and whooping cough. No child shall be admitted or received in any of the public schools of the state until he or she has been successfully immunized for these diseases, unless the parents provide a certificate from a reputable physician, showing that a successful immunization is impossible or improper at the time of enrollment.

All first grade pupils and all students transferring from a school located outside this state shall furnish a certificate from a licensed physician stating that a tuberculin skin test approved by the director of the department of health has been made within two months prior to the beginning of the school year or during the first seven months of the current school year. Test results must be recorded on the certificate. Positive reactors to the skin test must be immediately x-rayed, and receive annual x-rays thereafter, or at more frequent intervals if medically indicated. Pupils found to have tuberculosis in a communicable stage will not be allowed to attend school until their disease has been arrested and is no longer communicable.

Medical Examinations for Interscholastic Athletic Participation

Every candidate for a team in the interscholastic athletic program of the secondary schools must have a medical examination, and be pronounced physically fit by a reputable member of the medical profession before he/she is allowed to participate in the interscholastic program.

Legal Reference: School Laws of West Virginia: 18A-5-1; 16-3-4; 16-3-4A