

Medical Information

Health Office

Key School has a full-time school nurse. Students experiencing injury or illness will report to the school nurse for further care. The nurse is responsible for assessing these students and determining if a higher level of care is needed.

Prescription or Nonprescription Medication

To administer prescription or nonprescription medication (excluding Advil and Tylenol), Key School must have a Medication Administration Form completed and signed by both a parent and a licensed medical professional. Please have forms submitted on or before the first day of school or by the day student is to begin medication in order for the school nurse to be able to administer medication. Occasionally, persistent headaches and injuries occur and when non-pharmacological methods have been exhausted to provide relief, the nurse will then administer as needed Advil or Tylenol per parental/guardian approval. Parents, please fill out the Advil and Tylenol Administration Form for your authorized, or non-authorized, use of these two over the counter medications.

Parents are responsible for supplying medication in original pharmacy labeled containers and notifying the school nurse of any medication changes. All medication must be checked into the nurse's office. Students are not allowed to keep any prescription or non-prescription medication in their backpacks, purses, or pockets.

Medical Conditions

It is the parent's responsibility to enter in FACTS and inform the school nurse of any medical condition such as food allergies, insect bite reactions, seizures, diabetes, asthma, etc., that may require medication or a medical procedure during school hours. Action Plans must be filled out by the student's licensed medical provider and be submitted yearly on or before the first day of school.

The Key School Board of Directors has the right to refuse or discontinue enrollment to any student due to prior or present medical conditions if, in the opinion of the Executive Director, or Director, Key School is not a proper academic setting for that student.

Yearly Physical

A yearly physical performed by a licensed medical provider is required for students and must be completed before the start of the new school year. We encourage them to be done over summer break so forms are ready to be submitted on or before the first day of the new school year. Yearly physical appointments are the best time to get your Medication Administration and Action Plan Forms completed along with making sure immunizations are up to date and obtaining updated shot records for submission to the school nurse. Please have all forms ready for submission on or before the first day of the school year.

Immunizations

The Public Health Department requires Key School to maintain a current record of immunizations. This record must be provided by the child's physician and filed on an official form.

All information within "Immunizations" is taken directly from the Texas Department of State Health Service site and will be followed at Key School:

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/school-requirements.aspx>

Immunization Requirements for Schools

A student shall show acceptable evidence of vaccination prior to entry, attendance, or transfer to a child-care facility or public or private elementary or secondary school in Texas.

Exemptions

Texas law allows (a) physicians to write medical exemption statements which clearly state a medical reason exists and the person cannot receive specific vaccines, and (b) parents/guardians to choose an exemption from immunization requirements for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. The law does not allow parents/guardians to elect an exemption simply because of inconvenience (for example, a record is lost or incomplete and it is too much trouble to go to a physician or clinic to correct the problem). Schools should maintain an up-to-date list of students with exemptions, so they may be excluded in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of public health.

Instructions for requesting the official exemption affidavit that must be signed by parents/guardians choosing the exemption for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, can be found on the [Exemption Information](#) page of this website. Original Exemption Affidavit must be completed and submitted to the school.

For children claiming medical exemptions, a written statement by the physician must be submitted to the school. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician. More information regarding medical exemptions can be found on the [Exemption Information](#) page of this website. Original Exemption Affidavit must be completed and submitted to the school.

Provisional Enrollment

All immunizations should be completed by the first date of attendance. The law requires that students be fully vaccinated against the specified diseases. A student may be enrolled provisionally if the student has an immunization record that indicates the student has received at least one dose of each specified age-appropriate vaccine required by this rule. Student must not be overdue for next dose in series to be considered provisional. To remain enrolled, the student must complete the required subsequent doses in each vaccine series on schedule and as rapidly as is medically feasible and provide acceptable evidence of vaccination to the school. A school nurse or school administrator shall review the immunization status of a provisionally enrolled student every 30 days to ensure continued compliance in completing the required doses of vaccination. If, at the end of the 30-day period, a student has not received a subsequent dose of vaccine, the student is not in compliance and the school shall exclude the student from school attendance until the required dose is administered.

Additional guidelines for provisional enrollment of students transferring from one Texas public or private school to another, students who are dependents of active duty military, students in foster

care, and students who are homeless can be found in the TAC, Title 25 Health Services, Sections [97.66](#) and [97.69](#).

For further help and guidance, please see the [Provisional Enrollment Flowchart \(PDF\)](#) and [Provisional Enrollment Dosing Schedule \(PDF\)](#).

Documentation

Since many types of personal immunization records are in use, any document will be acceptable provided physician or public health personnel has validated it. The month, day, and year that the vaccination was received must be recorded on all school immunization records created or updated after September 1, 1991.

Meningitis Information for Students & Parents

All information within "Meningitis Information for Students & Parents" is taken directly from the Texas Department of State Health Service site:

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/meningitis-information-for-students---parents/>

New Requirement for School Districts to Provide Bacterial Meningitis Information to Students and Parents

[Download this information as a .pdf: BACTERIAL MENINGITIS / MENINGITIS BACTERIANA.](#)

[En Español: Meningitis Bacteriana](#)

In the 86th Legislature, [HB 3884](#) required DSHS to create procedures for school districts to provide information relating to bacterial meningitis to students and parents. DSHS shall prescribe the form and content of the information. School districts should provide the information below on the district website or provide a link to this page on the district website. For school districts that do not maintain a website, the information should be provided in hard copy to each student.

WHAT IS MENINGITIS?

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral meningitis is most common and the least serious. Meningitis caused by bacteria is the most likely form of the disease to cause serious, long-term complications. It is an uncommon disease but requires urgent treatment with antibiotics to prevent permanent damage or death.

Bacterial meningitis can be caused by multiple organisms. Two common types are *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, with over 80 serogroups that can cause illness, and *Neisseria meningitidis*, with 5 serogroups that most commonly cause meningitis.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Someone with bacterial meningitis will become very ill. The illness may develop over one or two days, but it can also rapidly progress in a matter of hours. Not everyone with meningitis will have the same

symptoms.

Children (over 1 year old) and adults with meningitis may have a severe headache, high temperature, vomiting, sensitivity to bright lights, neck stiffness, and drowsiness or confusion. In both children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots. These can occur anywhere on the body.

The diagnosis of bacterial meningitis is based on a combination of symptoms and laboratory results.

HOW SERIOUS IS BACTERIAL MENINGITIS?

If it is diagnosed early and treated promptly, most people make a complete recovery. If left untreated or treatment is delayed, bacterial meningitis can be fatal, or a person may be left with permanent disability.

HOW IS BACTERIAL MENINGITIS SPREAD?

Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. The germs live naturally in the back of our noses and throats, but they do not live for long outside the body. They are spread when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing; sharing drinking containers, utensils, or cigarettes) or when people cough or sneeze without covering their mouth and nose.

The bacteria do not cause meningitis in most people. Instead, most people become carriers of the bacteria for days, weeks or even months. The bacteria rarely overcome the body's immune system and cause meningitis or another serious illness.

HOW CAN BACTERIAL MENINGITIS BE PREVENTED?

Vaccination

Bacterial meningitis caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Neisseria meningitidis* may be prevented through vaccination. The vaccine which protects against *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is called pneumococcal conjugate vaccine or PCV. This vaccine is recommended by the Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for children in the first year of life. *Neisseria meningitidis* is prevented through two types of vaccines. The first is a meningococcal conjugate vaccine which protects against 4 serogroups A, C, W, and Y and is referred to as MCV4. The second is a vaccine against *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B and is referred to as MenB.

The ACIP recommends MCV4 for children at age 11-12 years, with a booster dose at 16-18 years. In Texas, one dose of MCV4 given at or after age 11 years is required for children in 7th-12th grades. One dose of MCV4 received in the previous five years is required in Texas for those under the age of 22 years and enrolling in college. Teens and young adults (16-23 years of age) may be vaccinated with MenB. This vaccine is not required for school or college enrollment in Texas.

Vaccines to protect against bacterial meningitis are safe and effective. Common side effects

include redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops about 1-2 weeks after the vaccines are given and lasts for 5 years to life depending on vaccine.

Healthy habits

Do not share food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes. Wash your hands. Limit the number of persons you kiss. Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough. Maintaining healthy habits, like getting plenty of rest and not having close contact with people who are sick, also helps.

WHO IS AT RISK FOR BACTERIAL MENINGITIS?

Certain groups are at increased risk for bacterial meningitis caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*. These risk factors include HIV infection, travel to places where meningococcal disease is common (such as certain countries in Africa and in Saudi Arabia), and college students living in a dormitory. Other risk factors include having a previous viral infection, living in a crowded household, or having an underlying chronic illness.

Children ages 11-15 years have the second highest rate of death from bacterial meningitis caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*. And children ages 16-23 years also have the second highest rates of disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU THINK YOU OR A FRIEND MIGHT HAVE BACTERIAL MENINGITIS?

Seek prompt medical attention.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Your school nurse, family doctor, and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources for information on all infectious diseases. You may call your family doctor or [local health department](#) office to ask about meningococcal vaccine. Additional information may also be found at the web sites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html> and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/PreteenVaccines.aspx>

or

<https://dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/disease/meningitis/Meningitis.aspx>

Oils

Due to the potential for sensitivities from the usage of oils, Key School does not allow oils of any kind.

When to Keep Your Student Home from School

- Temperature of 100.0° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or greater
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- A rash with fever or rash of unknown origin
- Sore Throat

- Complaints of ear pain (with or without fever)
- Persistent coughing or breathing problems
- Loss of appetite
- Yellowing of the whites of the eyes or if has red, runny eyes or wakes up with eyes “glued” shut

Students should return to school:

- Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher
- after diarrhea and or vomiting has stopped for a full 24 hours without the aid of medication
- after student takes prescribed antibiotic medication for 24 hours
- and the student feels well enough to be in school for a full day.

COVID-19

What Happens When Someone is Suspected of Having COVID-19 While on Campus?

- a. Any students or staff members who develop *any* symptoms of illness should report to the school nurse for further evaluation.
 - b. Students or staff members will be given an immediate temperature check and symptom screening.
 - c. Any present symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will result in the child or staff member being immediately isolated from the rest of the school population.
 - d. A child who is sick will be safely transported by the school nurse to an area of isolation. If more than one student is in the isolation room, physical distancing will be maintained.
 - e. Parents of students showing symptoms will be notified by the school nurse and will be requested to pick up their child *immediately* (within 30 minutes).
 - f. Students in isolation will receive continued supervision and care while they wait to be picked up or until they are able to leave the facility on their own. Staff members must leave campus *immediately*.
 - g. The school nurse will ensure that hygiene supplies are available, including a face covering, facial tissues, and alcohol-based hand rub.
 - h. Individuals who are sick will be instructed to go home, contact their healthcare provider, and follow CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others who are sick (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>)
- and

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fif-you-are-sick%2Fquarantine.html

i. The school nurse will notify the Head of School and Assistant Head of School of any student or staff member who is being sent home.

If student is Covid-19 positive or exposed to Covid-19

Key School follows CDC recommendations on care, isolating, and quarantining for confirmed Covid-19 cases or exposure. Please see the following links:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>

and

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fif-you-are-sick%2Fquarantine.html