

Health Services

Policy

Health Services provided to students of Torrington Public Schools will be carried out in keeping with the Connecticut State Department of Education Laws and Regulations.

Administrative Regulations

Immunizations

All students entering the Torrington school system for the first time must present written evidence of the following immunizations:

- Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (DTP/DTAP) 4 dose minimum, with the last dose no sooner than the 4th birthday. For children over 6 years of age beginning or updating their immunizations it is Diphtheria Tetanus only.
- Polio (IPV/OPV) - 3 dose minimum with the last dose given no sooner than the 4th birthday.
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) - 1 dose given after the first birthday followed by a second dose of Measles containing vaccine before 1) entry into Kindergarten for all children entering Kindergarten August 2000 or later and 2) for all students entering 7th grade who began Kindergarten before 2000.
- Haemophilus influenza (HIB) - At least one dose given after 1 year of age if the child is under 5 years of age when beginning school.
- Hepatitis B (HBV) - Students who were born January 1st 1994 or after must show evidence of 3 Hepatitis B immunizations given at the appropriate intervals, before entering school. Beginning August 2000, students entering 7th grade must show proof of the first Hepatitis B immunization and the series must be completed before entering 8th grade.
- Varicella (Chicken Pox) - Beginning August 2000, all students entering 7th grade must show proof or immunity to Varicella; either proof of disease or immunization. All students born January 1, 1997 or later must show proof of immunity to varicella before entering school. Natural infections must be confirmed in writing by a physician or laboratory. Students who fail to provide such evidence will not be permitted to attend school.

Questions regarding these requirements, including exemptions, are to be referred to a member of the School Health Services department or to an Administrator.

Health Assessments

A. All students entering the Torrington school system for the first time must present written evidence of a complete health assessment including all mandated elements as indicated on the State of Connecticut Health Assessment form (Blue form). Each student entering the Torrington Public Schools shall show evidence of either a PPD Tuberculin Screening or a Risk Assessment for TB. The procedure to be followed will be based on the recommended guidelines from the State of Connecticut and the American Academy of Pediatrics Red Book on Infectious Diseases.

1. A child may be registered for kindergarten if the requirements for immunization are met, but the student may not enter school without the assessment. Parents will be advised of this policy in the kindergarten letter and/or at the time of registration.

2. New enterers from out of the school district will have 30 days to comply with the requirement for physical examination or they will be excluded from school. The parent will be advised of this policy at the time of registration.

B. All students in grades 6th and 9th will be required to have health assessments including all mandated elements as indicated on the State of Connecticut Health Assessment form (Blue form) and all age appropriate immunizations as required by Connecticut State Statute Section 10-204a. In addition to the above students will be required to have either a Risk Assessment for Tuberculosis or if deemed appropriate, PPD screening for TB per the district guidelines for Tuberculosis Screening as stated in Section A of this document.

1. The target date for the return of the health assessment form will be May 15th of the 6th, 9th grade school year. The completed forms must be returned by the first day of 7th/10th grade or the student will not be allowed to attend school until the requirement is met. This includes required immunization updates.

2. The letter indicating this health assessment and the necessary form will be mailed home to the parents in June of the 5th and 8th grades. A letter will be sent home in December and April of the 6th and 9th grade year reminding parents who have not returned the forms of the requirement and the policy for noncompliance.

3. If requested by a parent, health assessments must be provided free for those pupils who meet the eligibility requirements for free or reduced lunch and the free milk program. The parent will be given the opportunity to be present.

C. Section 10-209 of the Connecticut General Statutes states that health care providers must provide the information contained on the Health Assessment Forms including Immunizations to schools. Each local board of education must name persons to receive this information from the physician. The Torrington Board of Education appoints the Nurses and/or the Coordinator of School Health Services to receive this information.

Health Screenings

A. The school nurse will provide screenings in the following areas, using procedures recommended by the State Board of Health and Education:

1. Vision IN Grades K-6, inclusive and Grade 9
2. Hearing in Grades K-3 and Grades 5 and 8
3. Postural Screening in Grades 5-9 inclusive

B. In grades 6 and 9 Vision, Hearing and Postural Screening are done as part of the required Health Assessments by the physician.

C. Parents will be notified annually as provided through the student handbook of the screenings to be conducted.

D. Written notice will be given to the parent of each pupil who may need further professional evaluation.

Health Records

The results of the assessments and screenings will be recorded on forms distributed by the State Board of Education. These records are to be kept in a locked file, accessible only to the proper personnel. When a student leaves the school district for another district in Connecticut, the original health record shall be sent and a true copy retained. If the student moves out of state, the original record is retained and a true copy sent. The procedure to be followed if a student is out placed and Torrington is the nexus community is different. The original is maintained in Torrington and a true copy sent to the outplacement.

Exemptions

Requirements of these policies are waived if the parent notifies school personnel in writing that there is an objection on religious grounds or presents written documentation from a physician stating a medical exemption. There are state approved forms for both of these exemptions. Parents may request an administrative hearing on any ruling resulting from the above policies.

The term parent shall mean also any legal guardian of a student, and/or the pupil if he/she is an emancipated minor or over 18 years of age.

Legal reference:

C.G.S., § 10-204a, Immunizations
C.G.S., § 10-206, Health Assessments Section
Revised and Approved September 13, 1995
Revised and Approved November 6, 1996
Revised and Approved October 19, 2005
Revised and Approved November 18, 2009