



Stephanie G. Knutson, MSN, RN School Nurse Consultant

Special Points of Interest:

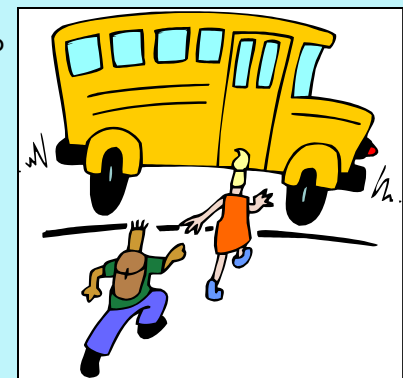
- 2011-12 Immunization Requirements for Connecticut Schools
- Health Assessment Requirements for Connecticut Schools
- Legislative Change: Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-206, Health assessments
- School Nurse Supervisor Conference - September 28, 2011
- New School Nurse Workshop - November 3 and December 6, 2011



2011-12 Immunization Requirements for Connecticut Schools

The mission of the State Department of Public Health's (DPH) Immunization Program is to prevent disease, disability and death from vaccine-preventable diseases in infants, children, adolescents and adults through surveillance, case investigation and control, monitoring of immunization levels, provision of vaccine, and professional and public education.

Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-204a, *Required immunizations* states that "each local or regional board of education, or similar body governing a nonpublic school or schools, shall require each child to be protected by adequate immunization...pursuant to section 19a-7f before being permitted to enroll in any program operated by a public or nonpublic school under its jurisdiction."



The following immunization resources from the DPH and the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) provide information on the mandatory immunization requirements for attendance and enrollment in Connecticut schools and educational programs:

- **immunization laws and regulations** - the revised immunization laws and regulations are available on the DPH Immunization Program Web site at <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3136&Q=467374&PM=1>;
- **school-related immunizations** - Immunization Of School Children Against Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Poliomyelitis, Diptheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib), Hepatitis B, And Varicella regulations are located on the DPH Web site at http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/school_regulations_2010.pdf;
- **immunization requirements for newly enrolled students at Connecticut schools 2011-12, school year** are located on the CSDE Health Promotion Services/School Nurse Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/deps/student/health/SchoolImmunizations.pdf>; and
- **immunizations exemptions certification forms** - immunization exemptions are permitted under certain circumstances. According to state law a child can be exempted from receiving a vaccine for medical conditions which are contraindicated or for religious reasons. Exemption forms are available at the DPH Immunization Program Web site at <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3136&q=388416>.

Immunization requirements for the 2011-12, school year will be reviewed at the School Nurse Supervisors Conference on September 28, 2011, (see flyer on page 3 of this edition of the **School Nurse Bulletin**.)

If you have questions regarding immunization requirements for school entry, please contact the DPH Immunization Program at 860-509-7929.

Health Assessment Requirements for Connecticut Public Schools

Health Assessment Requirements: Health assessment (physicals) requirements for Connecticut public schools are mandated by state law (Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-206.) Specifically, Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-206 (b) states that “each local or regional board of education shall require each child to have a health assessment prior to public school enrollment...” In addition, Section 10-206(c) states that “each local or regional board of education shall require each pupil enrolled in the public schools to have health assessments in either grade six or grade seven **and** in either grade nine or grade ten...” Specific grade levels are then determined by the local or regional board of education.

Assessments and Screening Requirements: Assessments and screenings that must be included in a health assessment are listed in Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-206, *Health Assessments*.

Provision of Reports to Schools: Each health care provider who has provided immunizations and health assessments to a child who is seeking to enroll in a public school in Connecticut, must provide reports of such immunizations and health assessments to the designated representative of the local or regional school district governing the school in which the child seeks to enroll (Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-209(b) *Provision of reports to schools*.)

Availability and Location of Health Assessment Records (HAR-3): The result of each assessment shall be recorded on forms that are supplied by the State Board of Education (Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-206(d)). This form known as the Health Assessment Record (HAR-3), may also be used for health assessments required every year for students participating on sports teams. The HAR-3 forms are provided to school districts on an **annual basis** and may be downloaded and printed from the Connecticut State Department of Education’s Health Promotion Services/School Nurse Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&q=320768#Forms>.

For questions regarding health assessment requirements, please contact Stephanie Knutson, School Health Consultant at 860-807-2108 or stephanie.knutson@ct.gov.

!! Legislative Change !!

Health Assessments Conducted by Health Care Providers at Military Bases

Military families who are transitioning their children into Connecticut public schools have oftentimes experienced difficulty complying with the statutory requirement for physical examinations conducted by Connecticut health care providers, resulting in delays in school enrollment. Specifically, the statute required that health assessments be conducted by advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs) who are licensed in Connecticut. However, most APRNs and PAs who practice at military health clinics are licensed in other states.

Effective July 13, 2011, Section 1 of Public Act No. 11-179, *An Act Concerning Education Issues*, made **changes** to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-206, *Health assessments*, listing APRNs and PAs stationed at any military bases among those health care providers who can conduct health assessments for student enrollment in Connecticut public schools, as follows:

“(a) Each local or regional board of education shall require each pupil enrolled in the public schools to have health assessments pursuant to the provisions of this section. Such assessments shall be conducted by (1) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, (2) an advanced practice registered nurse or registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378, (3) a physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, [or by the] (4) a school medical advisor, or (5) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant stationed at any military base, to ascertain whether such pupil is suffering from any physical disability tending to prevent such pupil from receiving the full benefit of school work and to ascertain whether such school work should be modified in order to prevent injury to the pupil or to secure for the pupil a suitable program of education...”

A copy of Public Act No. 11-179, *An Act Concerning Education Issues* is available at the State of Connecticut General Assembly Web site at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2011/ACT/Pa/pdf/2011PA-00179-R00SB-01039-PA.pdf>. This important change to the statute will assist schools in meeting the requirement for ensuring that all students have health assessments prior to enrollment and allow students living on military bases to enroll in a timely fashion.

For more information or questions regarding this recent legislation, please contact Stephanie Knutson, School Health Consultant at 860-807-2108 or stephanie.knutson@ct.gov.

Professional Development Opportunities



The Connecticut State Department of Education
presents the following opportunity for school nurses,
supervisors and administrators

Fall 2011 School Nurse Supervisor Conference

Wednesday, September 28, 2011, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Cromwell, 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, Connecticut 06416



Facilitator..... Stephanie Knutson, MSN, RN,
School Health Consultant,
State Department of Education
Fee..... \$45.00 per person
CEUs..... 0.6
Register by 9/13/11
Course # 1125300143



This activity will provide school nurse supervisors with information on multiple state initiatives and trends in the state. Additionally, school nurse supervisors will have the opportunity to network with colleagues.

Register online at www.registereastconn.org.
Click on the event title.

You will need to input your four-digit PIN number and a valid Purchase Order (P.O.) number from your school. Note: If you will be paying by a personal check and not using a P.O., you will receive an invoice via e-mail to send in with your check.

If you have questions regarding registration, or have difficulty using the online form, e-mail conferenceoffice@eastconn.org, or call 860-455-1533.

Important Note: Conference materials/handouts will be posted on EASTCONN's registration Web site at www.eastconn.org, approximately two weeks prior to the event. Please download, print and bring these materials with you to the conference as hard copies will not be available.

As a result of attending this conference, participants will:

- gain additional knowledge in health promotion of school nursing services;
- gain additional knowledge in state-mandated immunization regulations; and
- gain additional knowledge in the role of school health services in school reform.

The State of Connecticut Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, disability (including, but not limited to, mental retardation, past or present history of mental disability, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. The Department of Education does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding the Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, State of Connecticut Department of Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457 (860)-807-2071.

Professional Development Opportunities, Cont'd



The Connecticut State Department of Education presents the following opportunity for school nurses

New School Nurse Workshop Parts 1 & 2

Dates Thursday, November 3 & Tuesday, December 6, 2011
Location The Rensselaer Hartford
 275 Windsor St, Hartford, Connecticut 06120
Register by 10/19/11
Facilitator Stephanie Knutson, MSN, RN, School Health Consultant, State Department of Education
CEUs 1.2 (Attendance at both sessions is mandatory.)

Time 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Fee \$50 per person
Course # 1025300171

Important Note: Workshop materials/handouts will be posted on EASTCONN's registration Web site at www.eastconn.org approximately two weeks prior to the event. Please download, print and bring these materials with you to the workshop as hard copies will not be available.

This program will provide an overview of state laws and regulations regarding school health. The program will also address standards of practice for school nurses, competencies, and supervisory issues. Finally, the program will present an overview of the school nurse's role in student achievement, special education and Section 504.

As a result of attending these sessions, participants will:

- understand state laws and regulations regarding school health;
- learn state mandates for immunizations, health assessments and screenings;
- learn about the school nurse's role in academic achievement;
- learn about documentation in school health services; and
- become knowledgeable about special education and Section 504 issues related to school health.



Register online at www.registereastconn.org. Click on the title. You will need to input your 4 digit PIN Number and a valid Purchase Order (P.O.) number from your school. **Note:** If you will be paying by a personal check and not using a P.O., you will receive a confirmation via e-mail to send in with your check.

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Professional Development Opportunities, cont'd

The Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) Department of Endocrinology presents:

FALL 2011, Diabetes Education Program For School Nurses and Community Pediatricians/APRN's

Learn up-to-date diabetes information to help your students or patients with diabetes succeed. Agenda includes:

- diabetes 2011 etiology and pathophysiology;
- current standards of care and treatment options;
- food and diabetes management;
- pumps, meters and other technologies;
- school planning; and
- questions and answers.

Date: Saturday, September 17, 2011

Time: 8:15a.m. - 4:00p.m.

Location: CCMC Ground floor conference rooms, 282 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Cost: Free

CME/CEUs: Not provided

RSVP: Required by Wednesday, September 7, 2011, to Julie Pedersen at jpedersen@ccmckids.org or Karen Bucci at kbucci@ccmckids.org.

!! SAVE THE DATE !!

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs: A Team Approach

All children need adequate nutrition to focus and learn to their full potential. This is especially important for children with special dietary needs. Providing dietary accommodations represented in individualized health care plans (IHCPs), individualized education programs (IEPs), or 504 plans requires a team approach and communication among nursing staff, food service employees, teachers, and families.

As a result of attending this professional development opportunity, school team members will:

- understand the basics of the federal laws governing school nutrition programs;
- collaboratively plan for the needs of students who require special dietary accommodations; and
- develop a plan for communicating with faculty and families on these issues.

Audience: Teams of two people including a food services director and a school nurse supervisor or school nurse

Fee: \$25.00 per person; Lunch included

Location: Four Points Sheraton, Meriden, Connecticut

Additional information about this professional development opportunity will be forthcoming!

**STEPHANIE G. KNUTSON, MSN, RN
SCHOOL NURSE CONSULTANT**

Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and
Adult Education
25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457

Phone: 860-807-2108

E-mail: stephanie.knutson@ct.gov

Nondiscrimination Statement

The State of Connecticut Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons and does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. Inquiries regarding the Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Affirmative Action Administrator, State of Connecticut Department of Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457-1543, 860-807-2071.