

Baldwin County Public Schools Medications at School

Introduction

The goal of the school system regarding the administration of medication during school hours is to assist students in maintaining an optimal state of wellness, thus enhancing the educational experience.

Minor illness should be treated at home by the parent/guardian. For example, a student with a cold severe enough to require frequent medication should remain at home.

Medication prescribed for three times a day should be given at home – just before leaving for school, upon returning home in the afternoon, and at bedtime. The only exception to this schedule is medication that must be given before or along with meals.

Parent's Responsibility

- The parent/guardian and physician must sign the Baldwin County Public School's School Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization form granting permission for a child to receive prescription medication at school.
- The parent/guardian must provide the school with medication that is in a correctly labeled prescription bottle container. The pharmacist will label an additional prescription bottle for your child upon request at the time the prescription is filled. Do not **UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES** send any medication to school in a zip lock bag or container other than the original container. It will not be given.
- The parent/guardian and physician must provide the school with a new signed statement if prescription medication orders are changed during the school year.
- The parent/guardian or the parent designated responsible adult shall deliver medication to the school personnel designated by the principal.
- The parent/guardian shall give the first dose of a new medication at home in case of a possible allergic reaction.
- The parent/guardian shall pick up student's medication at the end of the school year. All medications not picked up will be destroyed.
- Please provide medication, such as Tylenol, in smallest container available.
- The parent/guardian with a child needing an inhaler at school will have to complete three forms for the school. A Physician's signature is required on two of these forms.

School's Responsibility

- The principal shall designate specific personnel who shall ensure the right student gets the right medication in the right dosage by the right route at the right time and is documented in the right way.
- The trained school personnel that is assigned to administer medication will follow the medication procedures and administer medication in a safe setting.

- The school nurse will be contacted and will have to approve over the counter medication. If your child has a chronic illness and taking prescription medications a physician's signature will be required on the School Permission Medication Form.
- In the event of an allergic reaction or an emergency situation involving medication, the school will handle the problem as any other medical emergency.
- The designated school personnel will give over the counter medication to a student using the same guidelines. A School Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization form must be filled out and signed and the medication must be in the original container.
- The school personnel will administer sample medication provided from a physician only if it is in a properly labeled container and according to written directions from the physician.
- The school personnel will refuse to administer medication when there is any discrepancy; i.e., label different from instruction or contents, label is unclear or label torn. This medication will not be given until clarification is obtained.
- The school personnel and parent/guardian must count all controlled drugs when they are received.

Student's Responsibility

- Students will not deliver medications to the school.
- Students must have a doctor's order to carry emergency medication, i.e. inhaler or Epi Pen.
- Students who have doctor's orders to have medication on their person, i.e. Asthma inhaler or EPI Pen will not share medication with other students.
- Students will notify their teacher/school personnel at the onset of any distress or allergic reaction.

Questions and Answers Regarding Medication

- Q. Why should parents bring student's medication to school?
 A. The Baldwin County School System does not want to place any child in a situation where they may be confronted for drugs. Ritalin as well as other drugs has a street value. When the parents bring the medication, this ensures no other child will tamper with the medication.
- Q. Why can't my child keep his/her medication?
 A. To protect all children from taking medication belonging to another child, no child may keep medication on their person at school. The only exception would be like emergency treatment.
- Q. Why can't I write on my child's prescription bottle?
 A. Prescription bottles can get smeared and very difficult to read. It is never a good practice to write on a prescription bottle.
- Q. Why can't the school provide and give medication for minor illness or pain?
 A. The school personnel cannot be placed in the situation to judge between minor and major illness and pain unless they are trained and licensed medical personnel. Most schools

do not have full time trained and licensed medical personnel. If the student complains of illness or pain requiring medication the parent will be notified.

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