

## Health Services

Oakdale Joint Unified School District (OJUSD) currently provides appropriate health resources to its students. OJUSD staffs two Credentialed School Nurses, one full-time Nurse, Diane Stevenson, R.N. (Registered Nurse) and one part-time Nurse, Nancy Adian, R.N. The school nurses serve approximately 5144 students at six school sites. There are Health Clerks at each school site. Full time Health Clerks at the Junior High and High Schools; part time clerks at the elementary sites. Health Clerks assist the school nurse in helping students and their families with their individual concerns. The health and well being of your student is an important part of the learning process because healthy kids are better learners! If you have any concerns regarding your student's health, if they have special needs, or there is a change in their health condition, please contact a member of the health service team. The school nurse or health clerk will assist you to help make the educational experience a healthy one for your student. The health service team is required to follow state guidelines that may affect your child's school attendance. State requirements for each student include health screenings (dental, hearing, vision, and scoliosis), immunizations, and physical examinations by your child's doctor or health care provider.

- **Emergency Phone Contact Numbers.** Please provide all phone numbers (home, cell phone, or pagers) so that the school may contact the student's parent, guardian, or designee should an emergency arise. Please update those numbers with the school as they change. Emergencies do not happen daily, but they do occur! It is a medical necessity that we are able to contact someone should this happen to your student. If there is an emergency that threatens the life or limb of your student, the school is required by law to call 911 for emergency services, and the parents or guardians are held accountable for any costs incurred.
- **Medications at School.** If your student needs any medication (over-the-counter or prescription) dispensed at school, there is a form to be completed and includes the parent and physician's signature. It is a California State Law and District policy and will be enforced. The medication supplied must be in the original container and labeled with the student's name, physician's name, the name and strength of the medication, the dose, and route. Students may not carry any medication on their person, purses, backpacks, etc., unless specifically required by their physician and proper paperwork has been filed with the school. If the parent or guardian wants to dispense the medication to their own child at the school site, they may do so. This is in your student's best interest to protect him or her, other students, and the school staff.
- **Communicable Infections.** If your student is found to have a contagious condition, he or she will be sent home. Included are head lice as OJUSD has adopted a "No Nit" policy. This means your child will be excluded from school if any lice or nits are found in the student's hair. School attendance will be denied until all signs of infestation are eliminated. However the health department has determined that no child should need more than three days to clear this condition. The school health team has information available regarding this problem, should you need it. Another potential risk for infection is blood and body secretions. If blood or other body secretions soil your student's clothing, they are requested to change the soiled garment. The parent, guardian, or designee may be contacted to bring clean clothes. All blood or body secretions are required to be handled with clean medical gloves to protect all students and staff.
- **Illness at School.** In the event that your child becomes ill at school the student will be directed to the health office. Evaluation by the school nurse, health clerk, or secretary will be made. If the child has a fever of 100.0 F or/and obvious symptoms of illness, the child's parents, guardian, or designee will be contacted and the student sent home. The student can only be released to those contacts included on the emergency contact list. For

the safety of your child, picture identification may be required of the adult picking up your child.

- **Illness at Home.** Please do not send your child to school with a known illness. Notify the office of the impending absence. If the child has an extended absence, it may be necessary to contact the classroom teacher to arrange for missed assignments. The school nurse or health care team member may contact the student's home to inquire about chronic or unexcused absences. Frequent unexcused absences may be referred to the Student Attendance Review Team (SART) or the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB).
- **Physicals.** The California Health and Safety Code requires that a certificate be provided to the school documenting that the student have a physical examination 18 months prior to the admission of first grade. Students who do not have a physical will be excluded for the safety of all. Additional physicals that are required are those for Kindergarten entry and participation in after-school sponsored sports.
- **Immunizations.** California State mandates immunizations for specific childhood diseases. *Proof of immunization must be supplied for school admittance.* Immunizations are required in order to protect each student and the public from disease. There is a schedule for immunizations of appropriate age groups. **See** <http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/pressreleases/store/PressReleases/35-99.html> Your physician, public health department, and school site has additional information. Failure to provide documentation of immunization will result in exclusion from attendance. The California Health and Safety Code mandates documentation of immunization for the following diseases:
  1. Diphtheria, Pertussis (whooping cough), Tetanus- (DPT)
  2. Haemophilus influenzae type b, except for children who have reached the age of four years and six months.
  3. Measles, Mumps, Rubella- (MMR)
  4. Poliomyelitis.
  5. Hepatitis B
  6. Varicella (chicken pox), effective July 1, 2001. Students never attending California schools must be vaccinated with Varicella at any grade.

### The Role of the School Nurse

“School Nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well being, academic success, and life-long achievement of students. To that end, school nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy, and learning.”—*National Association of School Nurses, Inc. 1999*