

ALABAMA CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION

Every student enrolled must have and maintain a current Alabama Certificate of Immunization or an authorized exemption on file at the school according to **Alabama Code Section 16-30-4**. Non-compliance may result in a delayed start date for the student.

PREVENTATIVE HEALTH MAINTENANCE

Checking for head lice is not a routine nursing procedure and mass screenings are no longer recommended. For students found with live lice, a nurse/designee will notify parent/guardian and an information sheet will be sent home with the student.

The Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Department of Public Health requires that school districts in Alabama offer and provide scoliosis screenings for all students in grade 5 through age 14, including special education students. The goal of this program is early detection of spinal deformities.

****Meningococcal meningitis** is inflammation of the lining around the brain and spinal cord that is caused by a very serious bacterial infection. This infection can lead to brain damage, hearing loss, learning disabilities, and even death. The meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) is recommended for all children 11-12 years of age. Older teens need a second shot at 16 years of age. For more information, please refer to:

<http://www.adph.org/Immunization/assets/MeningococcalDiseaseAndVaccineFlyer.pdf>

****The Influenza “flu” vaccine** is recommended for all age groups. For more information, please refer to:

<http://www.alsde.edu/sec/pss/Communicable/Flu%20Flyer.pdf>

****Backpack Act 2017-19** urges all school administrators, teachers, parents & students to be educated about the potential health impact of heavy backpacks and to take proactive measures to avoid injury. More information can be found at

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/Backpack-Safety.aspx>

****Sunscreen Act 2017-278** allows any student to self-carry & apply a FDA approved sunscreen without any type of consent/paperwork. However, if a parent requests a school employee apply the sunscreen then the parent must contact the school nurse for appropriate paperwork to be completed.

****Effective hand washing** is the most powerful weapon available to fight the transmission of most infections.

****Open wounds** must be covered at all times while at school.

****If your child is sick**, please keep them home. We are committed to sending sick children home to decrease exposure to the rest of our students thus preventing outbreaks of preventable illnesses. If your child has a rash it is recommended they be evaluated by a medical professional with a note saying when they can return to class.

STUDENT EXCLUSION DUE TO ILLNESS

Should a child develop any contagious signs or symptoms (SEE BELOW) while at school, school personnel will contact the parent/guardian or authorized adult and request that the child be taken home. If symptoms persist longer than two (2) days, consider taking your child to a physician. In the absence of a medical diagnosis or a physician-signed clearance to return to school, students who are ill should be excluded from school for 24 hours after the last episode or until illness subsides according to the following guidelines:

Symptom	Recommended Exclusion Period
Fever (100.4 degrees or higher)	Until 24 hours after the last episode of fever without anti-fever medication
Diarrhea	Until 24 hours after the last episode of diarrhea
Vomiting	Until 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting