



Health Services Guidelines for Parents

Welcome to the health office at Tapestry Charter School. Our office hours are as follows:

K-8:	8:30 to 2:30 daily
9-12:	10:00 to 2:00 daily

We will be glad to answer your questions and assist with any health concerns for your child/family. The services we provide are consistent with the mandates of the New York State Education Department and the New York State Department of Health. Please help us in meeting your child's health needs by notifying us of any new medical conditions, treatments, or immunizations. Be assured that the confidentiality of your child's medical issues is highly respected at the Tapestry Charter School.

Required Health Documentation

All Kindergarten and newly admitted students (K-12) and those entering grades 2, 4, 7 and 10 are required by the NY State Health Department to provide proof a health appraisal, including BMI (body mass index) and weight status category, completed within 90 days before the start of school. A dental health certificate is requested. Proof of basic immunizations is required once, within 15 days of entering school. Thereafter, you will be notified when proof of updates such as T-dap booster, are required. Proof of a physical exam within the past year is required for participation in all sports. All health forms will be sent home well in advance of the school year, and are available in the health office.

Health Screening

During the school year, students are screened for possible difficulties in the following areas: vision, hearing, height and weight. Scoliosis (curvature of the spine) screening is indicated for students in grades 5-9. Parents will be notified of problems identified from the screenings.

Illness

Please keep your child home if you suspect contagious illness, or for the following reasons:

- λ Vomited before school or has not tolerated solid food.
- λ A fever of 101 degrees or higher. The temperature should be normal for 24 hours before returning to school.
- λ Sore throat-very red and/or with white spots or accompanied by headache or fever (strep throat).
- λ Conjunctivitis: "Pink Eye", Impetigo: your child must be receiving antibiotic treatment for 24 hours before returning to school. Ringworm requires anti-fungal treatment. Child may be excluded from school at the discretion of his or her physician.

- λ Onset of a cold: the child is most contagious in the first 48 hours of sneezing, watery eyes, and runny nose. There is usually no fever with a cold. If your child is not feeling well and has severe cold symptoms, we suggest he or she stay home from school.
- λ Lice: If you suspect your child has lice, please contact the health office. We can help with diagnosis and treatment. Your child must be treated and will be examined by the nurse before being readmitted to school to make sure all nits (lice eggs) are removed from the child's hair.

Medication

The New York State Education Law states that for medication to be administered to a student by school personnel, the following regulations must be followed:

1. A written statement signed by the student's doctor indicating the name of the medication, frequency, dosage, route of administration, duration, and possible side effects of the medication must be provided.
2. A written statement signed by the parent requesting that school personnel give the medication.
3. Medication must be brought to school by the parent. The student cannot bring in the medication.
4. All medication must be received in the original container, as labeled by the pharmacy.
5. Each child's medication needs to be picked up by a parent at the end of the school year, or in accordance with New York State regulations, it will be properly discarded.

NOTE: The above guidelines refer to all prescription medications and all over-the-counter medications (Tylenol, Advil, Pamprin, cold medications, Neosporin ointment, etc.)

The Health Office has medication forms for all the above requirements. Please have the form completed in full-signed by parent and physician-if medication of any kind is needed during school hours. Certain older children are allowed to carry their medication and self-administer, with specific signed permission from the parent and MD. A form is available for this purpose also.

School Injury/Illness

Parents will be notified of serious illness or injury and first aid will be provided by the school nurse. Please notify the school of any changes in your work or home phone numbers. If parents cannot be reached, the adults listed on the emergency contact form will be called, if necessary.

Health Education and Counseling

The school nurses are good resources for parents, children and staff-to obtain needed health information, for support, and for health counseling, such as for help in making the decision of whether or not to keep a child home for health reasons, finding a physician or dentist, or for dealing with puberty concerns. We can help parents with preparing their daughters for the onset of menstruation, and in dealing with the issues this raises in school.

We are here to answer your questions and assist you in finding health/personal/family support-often as referrals to community agencies, such as Erie County Health Department Clinics, various counseling centers, or to websites for research into health issues. When in doubt, call us at:

K-8 building:	716-332-0754 ext. 104
9-12 building:	716-204-5883 ext. 107

Updated: 02/11