



COLLEGE PLACE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Health Services

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Date: 8/12/11

To: All Staff-College Place School District

Re: Medications at School Laws

Washington State Law requires that ALL MEDICATIONS, PRESCRIBED OR OVER THE COUNTER that need to be taken during school hours or at school related events MUST HAVE A WRITTEN DOCTOR'S ORDER in place at school. **This includes Tylenol, bee sting swabs, medicated lotions, cough drops, medicated band-aids, etc.**

Washington State Law also requires that **any staff person giving medications** has been through the **yearly** medication administration training with a licensed health professional-the school nurse in this district. This includes coaches, teachers, and any other staff who work with the students.

The principals will designate staff that will be giving medications during the year. This usually includes the secretaries and their substitutes, as well as designated special ed staff.

So, for example, if we don't have a doctor's written order for Neosporin ointment and a student has a cut or rash, we **wash it, bandage it, ice it, elevate it. If the problem is worse than any of these interventions can take care of, parents are called.**

One of the biggest reasons for this law is allergies, known or unknown.

Example of known allergy-a new student enrolled and had triple antibiotic ointment (Neosporin) listed as an allergy, which is something we used to just use for cuts, etc.

Example of unknown allergy-my husband was logging and got stung multiple times over his arm. His arm swelled a little so the crew decided to apply the bee sting swabs. He then had to be brought to town immediately because his arm started swelling badly and it was working its way up his neck.

The **only** medications that can be given in school are **oral medications-no eye drops, topical creams or lotions, or invasive procedures such as insulin injections-with the exception of the EPI-PEN.**

If a student does have an order for a cream or eye drops, for example, they can apply it themselves if they are able. If the student is not able, then either the school nurse can apply it or the parent can come to school and apply it.

Students may only self carry medications (usually only inhalers) if the doctor's order indicates this and it has been agreed on between the parent, doctor, school nurse and student, AND if the student has demonstrated capability.

We **cannot** call the parent and ask for permission to give a student something, such as Tylenol for a headache. It must be in writing and from a doctor. However, the parent is welcome to come to the school and give their child a medication. Parents will sometimes choose to do that rather than have their child miss school unnecessarily.