

Series 2019-2020

August 2019

Administrative Letter CT-10

****POST & CIRCULATE****

TO: Principals
Assistant Principals
School Nurses

FROM: Jeffrey S. Wihbey, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **Mandated Health Assessments and Immunizations**

State law requires each pupil enrolled in the public schools to have a health assessment and oral health assessment in either grade nine or grade ten. The CTECS requires both of these exams **for all 9th grade students**. Both assessments are documented on the State of Connecticut Department of Education Health Assessment Record Form (HAR-3). Parents/Guardians receive notice of the need for these exams and the HAR-3 form with the CTECS acceptance letter.

Health Assessments

Student health assessments must be completed between July 1 after 8th grade and the end of the 9th grade school year. If a student has not presented documentation of a health assessment by the end of 9th grade, the CTECS may deny continued attendance in its schools.

The School Nurse shall notify the Principal of students not in compliance with the health assessment at the beginning, middle and end of the school year. Principals shall notify parents/guardians that compliance with the student health assessment is required and shall refer them to available health services. If parents/guardians fail to provide the required health assessment despite multiple warnings and referrals to services, the parents/guardians may be informed that continued attendance will be denied until the health assessment is completed.

Because postural screenings are included in the mandated health assessment, school nurses will only conduct these mandatory screenings on students who do not have a valid HAR-3 on file in the School Health Office by April 30 of the 9th grade school year.

Oral Health Assessments

The CTECS shall request that each student in grade 9 submit to an oral health assessment. The oral health assessment shall include a dental examination by a dentist or a visual screening and risk assessment for oral health conditions by a dental hygienist, legally qualified practitioner of medicine, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse.

The CTECS will not deny enrollment or continued attendance to any student who does not submit to an oral health assessment. The CTECS shall encourage parents and guardians to obtain the oral health assessment prior to the beginning of 10th grade. Such encouragement may include hosting a free oral health event or referring parents/guardians to appropriate community services.

The School Nurse shall notify the Principal of students not in compliance with the oral health assessment at the end of the 9th grade school year, so that appropriate action can be taken.

Adequate Immunization

Before being permitted to enroll their child in any CTECS school, parents/guardians are required to provide proof that the student has received adequate immunization. The list of required immunizations is determined by the Commissioner of Public Health.

A student who fails to provide proof of adequate immunization shall be excluded from school pending compliance *unless* the student (1) is homeless (allow enrollment and refer to homeless liaison to assist with compliance); (2) has provided a medical or religious exemption statement; or (3) has demonstrated that immunization is in progress (received a dose of each required vaccine in the month prior to enrollment and continues on the catch-up schedule).

School Nurses are expected to monitor compliance with immunizations and report any non-compliance to Principals. Principals must communicate with parents/guardians to ensure that students are adequately immunized and take appropriate action in situations of noncompliance.

Please take necessary action to implement the above and inform appropriate staff.

Legal Authority

Connecticut General Statutes:

10-204a, "Required immunizations. Temporary waiver"

10-206, "Health assessments"

10-206d, "Oral health assessments"

19a-7f, "Child immunization standard of care and programs"

Reg. Conn. State Agencies §10-204a-1 et seq.

McKinney-Vento Act, 42 U.S.C.A. § 11432 (g)(3)(C)