

ST. MARY'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Student Services/ St. Mary's County Health Department

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS: OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS

The health of a child is an important factor in the learning process. Therefore, cooperation between the health department, the private medical sector, the home, and the school is essential for academic success.

In general, the administration of medication to students while they are in school is to be discouraged. Treatment schedules which allow doses to be given at times other than during the school hours are preferred and encouraged.

However, when in the opinion of the prescribing physician it is necessary for the patient's best interest that medication be given during school hours, such medication may be administered in accordance with procedures developed by the superintendent in consultation with appropriate health department officials.

It is recommended that administration of over-the-counter (OTC) drugs be given in accordance with the guidelines for prescription medication. However, in some instances, administration of OTC medication without an order from a physician, nurse practitioner, certified midwife, podiatrist, physician's assistant, or dentist may be requested by the parents/legal guardians. In such a case, only the licensed nurse may approve that the OTC medication be given according to the following guidelines.

- Written parental consent must be obtained. Consent should include the name of the drug, dose to be given, and route and time to be given.
- The OTC drug will not be given for more than two successive school days or more than two episodes during the school year without a physician's order.
- The parents/legal guardians must give the first dose of the drug.
- The OTC drug should be in an original container and brought to the school by the parent. Medication may not be transported by students on the bus.
- Storing and recording the administration of the OTC medication should follow the same guidelines as prescription medications.

A student who brings and/or takes medication of any type without following the medication regulation is entirely the responsibility of the parents/legal guardians, or student and not that of either the school or the health department.