

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS Wellness Policy

Superintendent's Circular #HWD-01, 2018-2019 September 6, 2018 Page 11 of 38

H. Health Services

The Boston Public School Health Services support students to be healthy, engaged, safe, and academically challenged by providing high quality, cost-effective in-school health care. BPS nurses are responsible for evaluating and managing the health needs of all students. That includes the following:

- Case management students with special health needs, including chronic or acute illnesses
- Monitoring and administering medications and medical procedures as prescribed by a student's primary care provider or medical specialist
- Providing first aid and emergency care
- Screening students for height, weight, Body Mass Index, vision, hearing, scoliosis, substance use (screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment)
- Managing student medical records and immunization records
- **Managing the control of communicable diseases**
- Coordinating medical transportation for students
- Coordinating special dietary accommodations for students with food allergies
- Working with other school-based groups to provide safe and healthy environments

In addition, school nurses engage in one-on-one education, small group health counseling, wellness promotion, and preventive services as part of the provision of care coordination services. BPS school nurses ensure access and/or referrals to the medical home or private health care provider. Where lawful, Boston Public Schools encourages positive communication and involvement with family regarding health services. Health Services actively collaborates with school and community support services to increase the ability of students and families to adapt to health and social stressors, such as chronic health conditions, adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and other social, emotional and economic determinants of health. BPS Health Services is committed to building partnerships with city agencies, medical providers, and community partners to leverage additional resources and health services.

Under Massachusetts Adolescent Confidentiality laws, adolescent students may receive confidential services for diagnosis, treatment and/or referral for drug addiction, family planning services, sexually transmitted diseases, and mental health. In accordance with the BPS Condom Accessibility Circular, BPS High Schools shall provide access to condoms, with appropriate reproductive health counseling for students. Each high school will have a Condom Accessibility Team (CAT) chaired by the school nurse and including at least one other staff member and an administrator. Condoms will be made available through the CAT at each school. Condoms will also be accessible from community health service partners and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). Parents and legal guardians may exempt their children from receiving condoms by notifying the school when they complete the family information forms at the beginning of the school year. This exemption to not receive condoms does not apply to other confidential health services.