



The Fairfax County Health Department and the Fairfax County Public School System participate in a partnership to provide each student access to a Health Room (clinic), a Public Health Nurse resource (registered nurse), and a School Health Aide (on site during school hours).



Role of the School Health Aide (SHA)

Teresa Knowlan, SHA - 703-262-2710



- Is a paraprofessional trained by the Health Department. The SHA is in the Health Room each day when the students are in the building
- Has a narrow scope of practice to include:
 - Care of sick and injured students based on specific guidelines
 - Facilitate medication administration
 - Coordination of care for students with health conditions that may affect his or her school day
 - Vision and hearing screening for all kindergarten and 3rd graders, and as requested



Role of the School Public Health Nurse (PHN)

Minjung Ellenburg, PHN – 571-460-9059



- Identifies and addresses medical and health concerns of students
- Provides training for school staff about health issues and procedures
- Is a resource to school staff for communicable diseases or other health concerns
- Promotes healthy lifestyles and teaches health-related topics
- Works with school staff and other agencies to ensure the best possible environment for education of each student
- Assists in interpretation of immunization records
- Supervises School Health Aides in multiple schools

General Information

- If your child is sick, please keep him/her home.
- Students should be free from fever / vomiting / diarrhea (without medications) for 24 hours before returning to school. In some cases, students may be sent home with a Health Referral requesting physician clearance to return to school.
- Please keep phone numbers and emergency care contact information up to date in school. Sign up for WeCare to complete electronic updates from home.
- Students generally stay 15-20 minutes in the Health Room and then a decision is made to go back to class or go home. We will notify parents in some cases, but the student may still be able to return to class based on their condition.
- The School Health Aide is not a nurse and can not diagnose or give advice regarding care.
- Medications for school use require appropriate form completion. Medication Authorization, Inhaler Authorization and Epinephrine Authorization forms are available online at <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/forms>.
- Medications (including over the counter) are not provided by the school. All medication must be brought to school by the parents and be in the original container with an appropriate label.
- Students are not permitted to carry medications to and from school.

Please contact Minjung Ellenburg, RN at 571-460-9059 if you have any questions about the school health program or if your child has a health concern that affects his/her school day.