The Fairfax County Health Department and the Fairfax County Public School System work together to ensure a safe and healthy school environment for learning. This partnership provides each student access to a Health Room, a Public Health Nurse, and a School Health Aide to provide health services.

Role of the School Health Aide (SHA)

Teresa Knowlan, SHA
phone: 703-262-2710
email: tcknowlan@fcps.edu

- 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
  - Medication administration – parents must provide medication and appropriate forms
  - Call 911 with any question of serious illness or injury
  - Communicable disease management – children are sent home for:
    - Fever of 100.4° or higher
    - Vomiting and/or diarrhea
    - Skin conditions and rashes that have not been previously diagnosed
  - Coordinate vision and hearing screening – done for all students in Kindergarten, 3rd, 7th and 10th grades, and as requested

Role of the School Public Health Nurse (PHN)

Jeanne Frost, RN
phone: 703-481-4078
email: jefrost@fcps.edu

- Identifies and addresses medical and health concerns of students with parents
- 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 (without medications) / vomiting / diarrhea 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.
- 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
- All medication must be brought to school by the parent/guardian and must be in the original container with an appropriate label. Students are not permitted to carry medications to and from school.
- Accidents happen. Please consider keeping a change of clothing in your child's backpack.

Please contact Jeanne Frost, RN at 703-481-4078 if you have any questions about the school health program or if your child has a health concern that affects his/her school day.