

*Date:* August 29, 2014  
*To:* District Administrators  
*From:* Carolyn Stanford Taylor, Assistant State Superintendent  
*Subject:* School Health Services Updates

As you begin your school year, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team would like to welcome you back and inform you of some important school health updates and notices.

### **Tuberculosis (TB) Skin Testing Returns**

School districts should return to tuberculin skin testing that Wis. Stat. sec. 118.25 requires of new employees. There is no longer a shortage of Tubersol, the solution needed to perform TB skin testing. Please check with your local public health department or other health agency that performs your district's testing. Please read the complete statute at:  
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/118/25/2>.

### **Epinephrine Auto-Injector Update**

On April 10, 2014, 2013 ACT 239: *Use of An Epinephrine Auto-Injector on School Premises or At A School-Sponsored Activity* ([https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/related/acts/239/\\_4](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/related/acts/239/_4)) became law.

Under the new law, Wis. Stat. sec. 118.2925, the governing body of a school *may* adopt a physician-approved plan for the management of pupils attending the school who have life-threatening allergies, including the training necessary to use epinephrine auto-injectors. A physician, advanced practice nurse prescriber, or a physician assistant *may* prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors to be maintained by the school for use if a school has adopted a plan. The governing body of a school that has adopted a plan *may* also authorize a school nurse or designated school personnel to do any of the following on school premises or at a school-sponsored activity:

1. *Provide an epinephrine auto-injector to a pupil to self-administer the epinephrine auto-injector in accordance with that pupil's prescription.*
2. *Administer an epinephrine auto-injector to a pupil in accordance with that pupil's prescription.*
3. *Administer an epinephrine auto-injector to a pupil or other person who the school nurse or designated school personnel believes is experiencing anaphylaxis in accordance with a standing protocol from a physician, an advanced practice nurse prescriber, or a physician assistant. If that pupil or other person does not have a prescription for an epinephrine auto-injector, the person administering the epinephrine auto-injector must, as soon as practicable, dial "911" or in an area where "911" is not available, the telephone number for an emergency medical service provider.*

### Immunization Compliancy

School districts are required to follow immunization compliancy laws, Wis. Stat. sec. 252.4. **In the event that there is a disease outbreak, those who are not immunized may need to be excluded until the outbreak subsides. The exclusion would take place in consultation between the school, the local health department and the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. In some cases this may be many days. Protect your students from disease and encourage immunization,** <http://docs.legis.wi.gov/statutes/statutes/252/04> .

See the abbreviated chart below to better understand your district's responsibility:

15 <sup>th</sup> school day	Legal notice sent to parents who have not submitted records or to those behind schedule or in process.
25 <sup>th</sup> school day	Legal notice sent plus exclusion letter sent to those continuing to be noncompliant.
30 <sup>th</sup> school day	Exclusion to those still not compliant in grades K through 5 <sup>th</sup> is <b>mandatory</b> if a school district's compliancy rate is less than 99% from the previous year. Exclusion is optional for all others. Students are not to be excluded for more than 10 consecutive days, and may return sooner once they are compliant.
40 <sup>th</sup> school day	Report of those continuing to be noncompliant due to Public Health Department in the area in which the student resides.
60 <sup>th</sup> school day	Report of those continuing to be noncompliant due to County District Attorney in the area in which the student resides.
These actions then repeat themselves for the winter compliancy deadlines— 80 <sup>th</sup> , 90 <sup>th</sup> , and 100 <sup>th</sup> day deadlines-see <b>DHS information for specific questions.</b>	<a href="http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/reqs.htm">http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/reqs.htm</a>

### Lice Policies

School districts are encouraged to review their lice policies if they have not done so recently. Both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend allowing students to remain in the school classroom until the end of the day, rather than sending a child home immediately if lice are found. It keeps children in class, as well as reduces the stigma for the child with lice. Parents can be notified and advised to remove or treat the lice before returning to school the next day.

It is also recommended that schools discontinue “no-nit” policies for the following reasons:

- Many nits are more than ¼ inch from the scalp. Such nits are usually not viable and very unlikely to hatch to become crawling lice, or may in fact be empty shells, also known as casings.
- Nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people.
- The burden of unnecessary absenteeism to the students, families, and communities far outweighs the risks associated with head lice.
- Misdiagnosis of nits is very common during nit checks conducted by nonmedical personnel.

Best practices can be found at [http://sspw.dpi.wi.gov/sspw\\_snlaws](http://sspw.dpi.wi.gov/sspw_snlaws) or by going to the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/schools.html>.

### **New School Nurse Training**

The New School Nurse Training is scheduled for November 5-6, 2014, in Madison at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The agenda will be rigorous to orient new school nurses in their new role. Topics that will be covered include guidance on the laws that affect school health, information on IEP's, 504's, school health records, and chronic health conditions management. This two-day workshop is a collaborative effort of the DPI and the Wisconsin Association of School Nurses. Registration information can be found here:

<https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1491028>

If you have any questions about any of the listed items, please feel free to contact Bette Carr, School Nursing and Health Services Consultant, [bette.carr@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:bette.carr@dpi.wi.gov), or Doug White, Director, SSPW, [douglas.white@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:douglas.white@dpi.wi.gov).

