

ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS

Background

The District is committed to providing a safe and healthy study and work environment for its students. The District recognizes that staff members do not generally possess the expertise required to determine the need for, or the appropriate means of, administering medical care to students. The District, nevertheless supports staff members who may be required to administer medication, medical care or emergency medical procedures to a student in order to preserve the life or physical well-being of that student.

Procedures

1. Emergencies

- 1.1. In case of physical injury, it is an obligation of all school employees to administer assistance immediately to the best of their ability and to summon medical assistance.
- 1.2. The Vancouver School Board (VSB) /Vancouver Teachers' Federation (VTF) Collective Agreement states, in Article 7M, that teachers will not be required to administer medication or supervise the self-administration of medication, except in emergency situations.

2. Staff Responsibility/Liability

- 2.1. If medication is required while the student is attending school, the education assistant, an administrative officer, or any person designated by them shall administer or supervise the self-administration of medication.
 - 2.1.1. The community health nurse will train the administrative officer and others designated by the administrative officer in the administration of medication or health care procedure, if required.
- 2.2. The majority of specialized health services or personal care needs of children with severe and multiple challenges/disabilities, such as the administration of pre-measured and prescribed medication, gastrostomy feeding, administration of routine oxygen, seizure management, and ostomy care, are carried out by education assistants who have received post-basic, child-specific training from the in-school support team.
- 2.3. The VSB/VTF Collective Agreement also states, in Article 7M, that teachers shall not perform any medical or health care procedure that is liable to endanger the well-being of the student or other students, or subject the teacher to risk of injury or liability of negligence, except in an emergency situation.

3. All parents are to be canvassed in September by letter or newsletter, with follow-up reminders, to complete or update the First Aid Emergency Record information, noting all medical conditions. It is imperative that this information is kept up to date at all times, in order to ensure the safety of students.

Reference: Sections 7, 17, 20, 22, 65, 84, 85, 95 School Act
Good Samaritan Act
School Regulation 265/89

Adopted: September 16, 1980

Revised: August 1, 1990; June 30, 1993 (Board: Arbitrated Collective Agreement); January 1999; September 24, 2018