

Health and First Aid at STM

ILLNESSES DURING SCHOOL: A registered nurse is on staff. If she believes it is necessary for a student to leave school, she will contact the appropriate person to take the student home. Our expectation is that a parent or other designated adult will pick up a sick or injured child within one hour of being called. That person should report to the office and sign the student out from there. It is very important that you keep your personal and emergency numbers up-to-date. The nurse's phone number is 272-3072. Students should be free of fever, vomiting, diarrhea or other symptoms for 24 hours prior to returning to school. Students diagnosed with strep throat are to be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school. You will be called to come get your child if he/she returns to school too soon after an illness.

MEDICATIONS: The Saint Thomas More Medication Policy is adapted from the East Baton Rouge Parish Medication Policy and is based on Louisiana state laws. Students should never have medications in their possession on the school grounds, except for certain emergency medications with special permission. The school nurse, teachers, and administrative staff have the right to confiscate any medication and contact the parent for appropriate information. If a student is changing households, please do not send medication to school with that student. Please make arrangements outside of school for these medications to be transferred. A parent or guardian may come to school to administer medications if needed during the school day.

Medications that CAN be given by the school nurse with proper paperwork:

1. Behavior modification (ADD/ADHD) medications
2. Severe allergy of insects, foods, etc. (Must have an Allergy Action Plan with picture of student)
3. Anticonvulsant (seizure) medications (Diastat, Dilantin, etc.)
4. Asthma inhalers or nebulizer treatments
5. Diabetic medications and blood sugar testing supplies
6. Prescription or OTC medication for CHRONIC conditions diagnosed by a physician

If a child must take one of the above-mentioned medications at school, a parent must follow these policies:

1. Medicine must be clearly labeled (see # 2, below.) Unlabeled medicine will not be dispensed.
2. A PARENT OR GUARDIAN must bring the medication to school in its original container.
 - **Prescription** labels should have the name of the pharmacy, name of student, name of medication, dosage, and specific time that the medication is to be given at school.
 - **OTC medications** should be labeled with the name of the student and the homeroom. The school nurse will label OTC medications with the dosage, frequency and time to be given.
3. Two medical forms must be complete and accompany the medicine:
 - State of LA Medication Order completed by a physician (must include diagnosis, name of medication, strength of medication, route, frequency, and any specific instructions.)
 - St. Thomas More Parent / Guardian consent form
4. A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION PAD IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. Copies of the accepted form(s) can be obtained in the nurse's office or on the STM school website.

5. Medications may not be sent to and from school on a daily basis. Please obtain a separate prescription to be left at school.
6. No more than 35 tablets for each student can be kept at school. The nurse will notify a parent if the medication is running low, and the parent will be responsible for bringing a refill to school.
7. Medications that are considered “controlled” substances (stimulants) will be counted by the nurse and the parent, and both will sign a form each time the medication is dropped off or picked up at school.
8. To circumvent potential abuse, all medications will be kept under lock and key in a secure location.
9. Parents are to inform their child to report to First Aid at the appropriate time for medication. The nurse will not be held responsible to call students for medication.

ORTHOPEDIC APPLIANCE POLICY: Students sent to school with an orthopedic appliance such as a cast, sling, brace, splint, crutches, etc. for more than two days must bring a note from the physician regarding diagnosis and activity restriction. The physician’s note should specifically address writing or typing, recess, sports, and physical education (P.E.). If a student is sent to school with an appliance before seeing a doctor, a parent must send a note stating if an appointment has been made and if the student is restricted from recess, sports, or P.E. at school. Extended restriction of activity, inability to write with a dominant hand, or use of a wheelchair will require more extensive school modifications and documentation from the physician. If a student will be unable to bear weight on an injured leg for greater than two weeks, we require the use of a wheelchair at school. If a student is in third or fourth grade and it is deemed unsafe for him or her to use stairs, we will address this on an individual basis. If a student is restricted from participating in PE, this will AUTOMATICALLY include restriction of recess and team sports activities. No exceptions will be made, and no doctor’s note will override this policy.

PINK EYE POLICY

If it is suspected that a student has pink eye, a parent will be called and the student will be sent home from school. Students may return to school after a bacterial pink eye infection when the following criteria have been met: prescription antibiotic drops have been given for at least two doses, and there is no longer any discharge from the eye or crust on the eyelashes upon awakening. Viral pink eye is more complicated and will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Antibiotic eye drops cannot be administered by the school nurse per state law.

IMMUNIZATIONS

At the time of registration, a parent or guardian must provide St. Thomas More School with a current State of Louisiana Universal Certificate of Immunizations that is complete and signed or stamped by a physician's office. The immunization record must be **complete and not expired** for a student to attend classes. Please contact the school nurse at 272-3072 or rochelle@stmbr.org if you have any questions about immunization requirements.

Kindergarten/ First Time Enterers:

- *Four doses of DTP (last dose given after the 4th birthday)
- *Three doses of OPV/IPV (last dose given after the 4th birthday)
- *Two doses of MMR after first birthday
- *Three doses of Hepatitis B
- *Two doses of Varicella (or history of chickenpox disease noted on shot record)

Students Entering Sixth Grade: (In addition to the kindergarten immunizations listed above.)

- *One dose of Tdap (given after the 11th birthday)
- *One dose of Meningococcal vaccine (given after the 11th birthday)

Please notify the school nurse if your child's eleventh birthday is after the start of sixth grade. You will have one week after your child's birthday to get the vaccines and send an updated shot record to school. No other exceptions will be made.

Medical or Personal Exemptions: If your child has not been immunized for medical reasons, you must obtain proper exemption forms from the school nurse, and medical exemptions must be documented by a physician. Exemption forms must be signed by a parent/guardian and notarized to be valid. **Personal or philosophical exemptions are not accepted.** Outbreaks of certain diseases must be reported by STM to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. DHH will determine if an unvaccinated student must be excluded from school and for what period of time.

ACCIDENT POLICY

1. The diocese provides accident insurance for students while at school or during school sponsored activities.
2. The accident claim form is available in the first aid office.
3. Our accident policy does not cover injuries due to medical diagnosis, only injuries due to accidents.
4. The claim must be filed within 90 days of injury.
5. Our insurance policy is a SECONDARY plan; it covers only costs not covered by your primary insurance.
6. Questions regarding claims are not handled by STM. Please contact Bollinger Insurance with any questions after a claim is filed. Their contact information is on the back of the claim form.