



Overview of Public Health Services Provided to Schools School Year 2011-2012

The Sheboygan County Division of Public Health's mission is to promote conditions in Sheboygan County in which people can be healthy. To achieve this mission, Division of Public Health personnel work with community partners to promote the health of the public and to protect Sheboygan County residents from communicable disease and potential environmental hazards.

The role of the Sheboygan County Division of Public Health related to school health during the 2011-2012 school year is highlighted below:

Communicable Disease Control

Public Health staff work with school personnel in an effort to limit the spread of disease and to reduce absenteeism by:

- Working collaboratively with designated school personnel when disease outbreaks occur in the school setting to identify and implement measures to curtail the outbreak.
- Assisting designated school staff to develop communicable disease prevention and surveillance plans designed to minimize the occurrence of disease and health nuisances that may disrupt school attendance (i.e. food-borne illnesses, influenza, head lice, scabies, etc.).
- Providing guidance to school staff regarding the completion of the State-required immunization status reports.
- Providing two food safety inspections each school year to school facilities with kitchens licensed to prepare school lunches. The first inspection is a facility inspection where food temperatures are taken and the condition of the kitchen is noted. The second inspection is a Food Safety Program Inspections using HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) principles.
- Provide inspections at the schools that provide a swimming pool. This includes water chemistry, safety and supervision, and overall maintenance of the equipment.

Health Promotion

Public Health staff act as a resource related to health promotion by:

- Providing information regarding issues that affect the health of the school community (i.e. pandemic planning, school and community wellness initiatives, blood-borne pathogens, etc.).
- Acting as a resource for school personnel regarding issues that affect the health of the public that may be incorporated into school health curriculum (i.e. the impact of tobacco products on health, local incidence of sexually transmitted infections, hand washing, safe food handling, Healthy Sheboygan County 2020 initiatives*, etc.).
- Providing information via Public Health Alerts, newsletters, and the Division of Public Health website http://www.co.sheboygan.wi.us/html/d_hhs_pblchlth.html regarding local health initiatives and issues of immediate concern.
- Sharing education resources and screening equipment for school use (i.e. hand washing education materials, tobacco education materials, blood borne pathogen materials, vision and hearing equipment, etc). Items can be requested by emailing publichealth@co.sheboygan.wi.us or by calling Shirley Rohde, Public Health Aide, at 920-459-3265.
- Acting as a community resource for pregnant teens through the provision of Public Health Nurse visits. Nurses provide information related to healthy pregnancy, postpartum needs, infant health and community resources related to pregnancy/parenting.

Additional Remarks

The scope of Public Health Practice within the Sheboygan County Division of Public Health does not allow for the delegation of nursing acts to school personnel (i.e. insulin injection, tube feedings, nebulizer treatments, etc.) or routine visits to the schools for the purpose of health promotion or consultation. School District board-hired or contracted School Nurse(s) are prepared to meet the unique or special health care needs of individual students in the school setting and have been found to be an effective health resource for the school community. Sheboygan County School Nurses partner closely with Public Health staff to coordinate health promotion efforts.

For more information regarding local Public Health programming, schools are encouraged to contact the Sheboygan County Division of Public Health by calling 920-459-4382 or 1-800-596-1919 ext. 4382 or emailing our department at publichealth@co.sheboygan.wi.us. A reference sheet providing specific DPH contacts by subject matter is posted on the DPH website for the convenience of school personnel.

*Additional information regarding local health initiatives can be reviewed at the Healthy Sheboygan County website www.healthysheboygancounty.org