

## Frequently Asked Questions: School Health Services Program Consent Form

### ***What is the School Health Services Program Consent form?***

The School Health Services (SHSP) Program consent form is a new form for families of District of Columbia Public School and Public Charter School students to provide consent for additional services available under the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health) School Health Services Program. Your child will continue to receive first aid and other basic care from school health suite staff, regardless of the completion of their SHSP consent form.

### **The SHSP consent gives families the opportunity to provide consent to:**

- a. Hearing and vision screenings performed by school health suite staff
- b. Participation in the School Health Services Telehealth Program
- c. Submission of the electronic versions of the Asthma Action Plan and the Universal Health Certificate
- d. Sharing of your child's health information between your child's school and other DC government agencies, in line with the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act](#) of 1996 and the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#)

### ***How is the SHSP consent form different from other school forms?***

This form streamlines several forms used to facilitate school health services. This updated form includes acknowledgements and consents for the provision of medications, individualized treatment and screenings of your child, as well as for your child's healthcare provider to complete electronic health forms on behalf of your family.

### ***What happens if my family doesn't complete the SHSP consent form for our child?***

Your child will continue to receive first aid and other basic care from school health suite staff, regardless of the completion of their SHSP consent form. Parental/guardian consent for services such as administration of medication will need to be on file at the point of care for students who do not have a current SHSP consent on file.

Children with school health forms on file such as medication and medical procedure treatment plans, anaphylaxis action plans, asthma action plans and other school health forms will continue to receive care in line with these forms.

***Will I still need to submit a Universal Health Certificate for my child if I complete the SHSP consent form?***

Yes, a universal health certificate will still need to be submitted annually on behalf of your child. The DC Health universal health certificate contains important health information about your child that school nurses need to care for your child at school.

***Will older versions of consent forms be accepted?***

Yes, school and health suite staff will continue to accept preexisting versions of all consent forms, but DC Health encourages schools to begin using the SHSP consent form. Submission of an SHSP consent form allows children to benefit from the full range of services provided through the SHSP, such as hearing and vision screenings and the School Health Services Telehealth Program, among others.

***Who will have access to my child's completed SHSP consent Form?***

DC Health, your child's school administration and school health suite staff will have access to completed SHSP consent forms.

After completing the form, families should return it to their child's school. The school administration will then submit the form to the school health suite staff. The school health suite staff will have **direct access** to submitted SHSP consent forms within the health suite and will be responsible for maintaining these forms. The completed forms will be shared with DC Health for data reporting and monitoring purposes. All data sharing practices are performed in line with the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#).

***When will schools begin to use the SHSP consent form?***

Schools will begin using the SHSP consent form for the 2023-2024 school year.

***Will families be required to provide consent on all sections of the SHSP consent when completing the form?***

No, by completing this form, you are only consenting for your child to receive hearing and vision screening and/or to receive any needed medication and treatment administration during the school day.

Additionally, families may provide consent for their child to participate in the School Health Services Telehealth Program. If your child does not have an SHSP consent form on file, school health suite staff will contact you if needed to obtain your consent for hearing and vision screenings, medication and treatment administration and the telehealth program.

***Are Children’s School Services school health suite staff responsible for verifying that students who receive care within the health suite have a signed consent on file?***

Yes, school health suite staff will verify that all students have the needed signed consents on file before conducting hearing and vision screenings, administering any needed medication and/or treatments, and before initiating a telehealth visit.

***Where will the SHSP consent be available for families?***

The SHSP consent form can be found at <https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/school-health-services-program>.

For more information about school health forms and the School Health Services Program, families can visit <https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/school-health-services-program>.