

**School Health Services Transition
School Year 2025–2026
For DCPS and PCS Families**

Overview

Starting in School Year 2025-2026, the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health) is providing school health services in 214 DC Public Schools (DCPS) and DC Public Charter Schools (PCS). The goal is to create a strong and lasting system of health support for DC students. If you have questions, please contact the School Health Services Program team at shs.program@dc.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What exactly is changing?

As of June 30th, 2025, DC Health began directly managing the school health services program. This included overseeing nurse staffing, medication training, and health screenings.

Q: Why is this transition happening?

DC Health is making this change to:

- Provide consistent care across all schools
- Align services with DC Health standards and future plans
- Give schools better access to DC Health resources
- Build a long-term model for school health services

Q: When will school staffing assignments be shared?

All schools received their health suite staffing assignments in August 2025. Due to continuous hiring, orientation, and continuous enrollment in schools, staffing is subject to change in order to meet the medical needs of all students.

Q: Will my school have the same nurse this school year?

We aim to keep everything the same. However final staffing will be guided by school need and staff availability.

Q: How are school staffing assignments made?

Assignments are made based on student health data. Schools with greater needs will receive more support. If you have not submitted your student Universal Health Certificate we encourage you to schedule an appointment with a primary care provider and have them fill one out. Please submit the forms to your school to ensure that your child has the proper care throughout the day.

Q: Will every school have an RN or LPN?

Each school will have a health professional. This can be a Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), or Health Technician. Staff will be **assigned** based on the specific needs of a school's students.

Q: What are the health suite hours?

Health suites will have between 20 to 40 hours of coverage each week. General health suites hours are from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

Q: What happens if health suite staff is unavailable?

DC Health will make sure a health suite staff is available by phone to cover the health suite. If no one is available, schools have trained staff certified Administrators of Medication (AOM) who is trained to give over the counter and perception medications to students as well as administer emergency medications.

Q: Will vision and hearing screenings continue?

Yes. These screenings will remain free and part of regular health suite services. We are moving to an opt out model if you do not want your child screened, please ensure that you notify the school health suite staff.

Q: Will there be new policies or forms?

If there are changes, families will be informed by DC Health and will be disseminated in DCPS and PCS newsletters.

Q: Who do we contact with nursing-related concerns?

Please use the [SHSP portal](#) or email shs.program@dc.gov to share any concerns or complaints.

Q: How will nurses help with immunization documentation?

Nurses will help approve and submit immunization records. The school nurses will monitor student records and contact families as needed. Nurses should be considered the primary contact for any medical or immunization-related questions.

Notes for Parents and Caregivers

Medication and Emergency Care

- School staff will be trained by DC Health to help during medical emergencies.
- School staff will be able to give emergency medication for asthma with severe breathing difficulties, seizures, low blood sugar, and anaphylaxis.

Additional Questions?

- Families can contact their school's main office or email shs.program@dc.gov with additional questions.