

School Health Update



DIVISION OF SCHOOL HEALTH

Division Director School Health

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A reminder to contact the School Health Nurse Consultant in your region. Contact information below:

School Health Nurse Consultants

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As a reminder, if there have been any changes regarding new nursing staff, nurse retirements, etc., please notify your school nurse consultant of the changes so we may keep our distribution lists up to date.

Pennsylvania Department of Health Community Health Districts



Dental Program Updates

ACT 55 Information

The mandated dental program previously required the completion of dental examinations by a dentist licensed within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Act 55 was signed into law December 2023, and amended the language of school based “dental examinations” to “dental screenings,” and enables public health dental hygiene practitioners (PHDHP) to complete the mandated dental screenings.

Some resources related to Act 55 are provided below:

- [PA School Health Dental Program Guidelines](#)
- [PA Coalition for Oral Health Act 55 Infographic](#)



Private Dental Form Guidelines for Providers

The Pennsylvania Oral Health Program partnered with the Division of School Health to provide instructions and guidelines for providers to completed the Private Dentist Report.

Provider guidelines can be found on the School Health Dental Health Program site:

- [Private Dentist Report Form Guidelines](#)



SHARRS Due Date Reminder

A reminder that the SHARRS reporting window will close on September 30th, 2024.

Please note:

- The Superintendent/CEO is the only person with the capability to submit the report.
- SHARRS can be accessed at: <https://apps.health.pa.gov/SHARRS/Login.aspx>
- An “INSTRUCTIONS” button on each page provides additional guidance to assist in completing the report.

[SHARRS Instruction Manual](#)

School Nurse Mentorship Program



Penn State PRO Wellness, in partnership with the **Moses Taylor Foundation** and **Highmark Foundation**, is now expanding their school nurse mentorship program statewide and is looking for new applicants for the 2024-2025 school year. Interested in being a part of this program? Fill out the application [here: https://redcap.link/SchoolNurseMentorshipApplication](https://redcap.link/SchoolNurseMentorshipApplication)

ACT 122 – VISION SCREENING

[Senate Bill 700](#) amends the language in Act 122 and was signed into law as a part of Act 55 on July 11, 2024.

This language now allows the Department of Health to promulgate vision screening regulations.

Updated vision screening standards are currently in the process of stakeholder review. The next step will place the proposed standards on the regulatory agenda:

[PA Code and Bulletin](#)

New vision screening guidelines will go into effect after the regulations are promulgated. There is no definitive timeframe. School Health will send out more information when available.



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**

Pennsylvania Chapter

INCORPORATED IN PENNSYLVANIA

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Youth Suicide Prevention

The month of September has been designated as Suicide Prevention Awareness month, with National Suicide Prevention Week observed from September 8-14, 2024.

The PA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, in partnership with the PA Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention seeks to develop training and resource materials specific to school nurses.

Please consider completing the survey (linked below) to provide information that will assist in the development of educational resources for school nurses regarding suicide prevention. Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MZQXNSS>

Back to School Resources

504 Considerations

The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights has released new resources on Protecting Students with Disabilities in K12 and Higher Education.

The new resources regarding [asthma](#), [diabetes](#), [food allergies](#), [GERD](#), [sickle cell disease](#), [epilepsy](#), and [cancer](#) are available on the [OCR website](#).

Dental Resources

[PA Department of Human Services Medicaid Dental Information](#)

PA Dept. of Health Oral Health Program/

Listing of Resources

[Oral Health \(pa.gov\)](#)



Resources for Healthcare

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)

Offer primary healthcare, behavioral health, pediatric care, dental, vision and pharmacy.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/Pages/FQHC.aspx>

<https://pachc.org/patients/>

PA Navigate is a statewide community information tool designed to address health and social care needs for Pennsylvanians by connecting them to community services.

[PA Navigate](#)



PA NAVIGATE
linking patients to community resources

Continuous Glucose Monitoring



If a student with diabetes uses a CGM for their glucose monitoring, the school nurse and/or trained non-clinical school staff are expected to use the CGM in accordance with the student's DMMP/504 and provider orders (frequency of monitoring etc.)

The decision to remotely monitor a student's CGM is individualized and based upon the unique needs of each student.

The Division of School Health recommends the development of a 504/DMMP for students using a CGM in the school setting.

[Diabetes in School](#)

[Children: Recommendations and Resource Guide for School Personnel](#) has information

regarding assembling a school health team, the development of the DMMP, and info on CGM's.

Additional resources may be found below:

[ADA Guidance for Use of CGM in School Setting](#)

[CDC - Considerations for Blood Glucose Monitoring and Insulin Administration](#)

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES



[Fundamentals of Critical Care Support - Pediatric:](#)

September 10 and 11, 2024 | Geisinger CE

[American School Health Association Annual School Health Conference](#)

October 16-18 Pittsburgh, PA

[Youth Mental Health Conference \(namikeystonepa.org\)](https://www.namikeystonepa.org)

February 7, 2025 The Westin Pittsburgh, 1000 Penn Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15222

[Penn State College of Medicine Continuing Education](#)

[Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics – Let's Talk Webinar Series](#)

[29th Pennsylvania Immunization Conference](#)

June 13, 2025 - Hershey Lodge 325 University Dr. Hershey



With Gratitude for all you do for PK-12 students, staff, and families.

The Division of School Health Team