

Transition of School Health Services – SY 2025-2026
For DCPS and PCS School Leaders
Prepared by DC Health – Not for Public Distribution

Overview

Beginning in School Year 2025-2026, the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health) will serve as the direct provider of school health services in all DC Public Schools (DCPS) and Public Charter Schools (PCS). This transition will mark the conclusion of services provided by Children’s School Services (CSS). The goal is to build a more integrated and sustainable model of school health support for DC students.

This document provides:

- Key updates to support school operations,
- Answers to anticipated questions, and
- Talking points for communication with families.

If you have additional questions, please contact the School Health Services Program team at shs.program@dc.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions (School Leaders)

What’s Changing & Why?

Q: What exactly is changing?

Starting June 30, 2025, DC Health will directly manage school health services including nurse staffing, medication training, and health screenings. Consequently, Children’s School Services (CSS) will no longer provide these services.

Q: Why is this transition happening?

To:

- Improve consistency in care across schools,
- Align services with DC Health standards and initiatives,
- Expand access to DC Health resources, and
- Establish a long-term, sustainable model for school health services.

Transition Timeline & Summer Coverage

Q: When does the transition begin?

The transition takes full effect on Monday, June 30, 2025.

Q: Will summer programs have nurse coverage?

Yes, the information will be distributed to schools by the end of June.

Q: When will staffing assignments be shared?

All schools will receive their health suite staffing assignments by Monday, July 28, 2025.

Staffing and Operations

Q: Will we have the same nurse next year?

DC Health will prioritize continuity; however, final staffing decisions will be guided by individual school needs and staff availability.

Q: How are assignments made?

Staffing assignments are determined based on student health data, including cases with high medical needs. Schools will have the opportunity to provide feedback through upcoming input channels.

Q: Will every school have an RN or LPN?

Yes, every school will be staffed with a health professional, whether a Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), or Health Technician, based on the specific needs of its student population.

Q: Will nurses attend start-of-year meetings?

Yes, their attendance at school opening meetings is expected.

Q: Will 3:30–4:30 PM still be protected for documentation?

Yes, that hour continues to be allocated for recordkeeping duties.

Q: Will we still get call-out emails if a nurse is absent?

Yes, notifications will continue to come from shs.program@dc.gov.

Q: Will coverage be provided during staff absences?

Yes, DC Health will ensure substitute coverage is available as necessary.

Q: Will DC Health provide health suite supplies?

No. Schools remain responsible for providing medical and office supplies, as outlined in the Health Suite Approval Checklist.

Q: Will DC Health continue vision and hearing screenings?

Yes, screenings will remain a part of routine services.

Policies, Procedures, and Training

Q: Will there be new policies or forms?

A few updates are forthcoming. Any changes to policies and procedures will be communicated before the school year begins. Additionally, forms are being streamlined for greater efficiency.

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

Please reach out to your assigned DC Health nurse manager. A contact list will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

Q: What system will be used for health records?

DC Health will continue using **School Health Management (SHM)**.

Q: Will AOM training still happen?

Yes, DC Health is responsible for Administration of Medication training and will work to expand its availability.

Q: Will school staff have access to the Immunization Compliance Portal (ICP)?

Yes, access will be maintained, with updated login credentials provided as needed.

Q: How will nurses support immunization enforcement?

Nurses will assist with monitoring records, contacting families, and ensuring compliance. Comprehensive training will be provided.

Q: Will any new responsibilities be assigned to school staff?

If changes occur, all changes will be clearly communicated, and comprehensive training will be provided prior to any shift in responsibilities.

Talking Points for Parents and Caregivers

Use these talking points when communicating with families about the changes.

Health Suite Staffing

- DC Health will staff and manage all health suites starting SY 2025–2026.
- Nurses and health professionals will now be directly employed and supervised by DC Health.

Medication and Emergency Care

- School staff will be trained by DC Health to administer medication and respond to medical emergencies, including asthma, seizures, and allergic reactions.
- DC Health will supply schools with emergency medications (e.g., epinephrine, albuterol, glucagon).

Immunization Support

- DC Health will continue to train Immunization Points of Contact (IPOCs) within schools.
- At least one designated school staff member will be identified to support compliance.

Continuity and Support

- DC Health is committed to ensuring a smooth transition and maintaining high-quality care.
- Additional updates will be shared before SY 2025–2026 begins.

Appreciation

- We sincerely thank Children’s School Services for their many years of dedicated support to DC students and families.

Questions?

- Please direct families to your school’s main office or have them contact shs.program@dc.gov for assistance.