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A warm welcome back as we begin another school year. We hope this summer afforded you opportunities to relax, rejuvenate, and engage in activities that brought you joy. Thank you for protecting and strengthening Pennsylvania students' lives and enhancing their learning environment. We applaud your intelligence, your patience, your time, and your compassion. Your impact is felt and appreciated. Thank you for your continued dedication to help ensure that Pennsylvania schools are a safe and healthy learning environment for all.

Division of School Health Staff

Welcome to our newest Division of School Health staff: Dawn Mosbacher is our NW District School Nurse Consultant, and Rachel Roach is our Administrative Officer 1.

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School Health Nurse Consultants

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Colleen Schultz

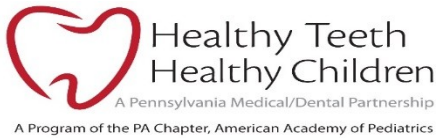
coschultz@pa.gov (717) 787-2390

Pennsylvania Department of Health Community Health Districts



*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.

We look forward to continuing to provide support and resources throughout the 2025-2026 School Year!



Back to School with Healthy Teeth, Healthy Children

Welcome back to a new school year! As classrooms buzz with excitement and fresh beginnings, it's the perfect time to think about how schools can support the whole child—including their oral health.

Incorporating a Topical Fluoride Varnish (TFV) program into schools is a proven way to reduce cavities and improve oral health, especially for underserved populations. By making preventative dental care accessible where kids spend most of their day, schools can play a pivotal role in building lifelong healthy habits.

For guidance on integrating oral health into your school, check out the [School Professionals Oral Health Training toolkit](#)—a resource designed to provide schools with essential oral health materials.

Interested in launching a TFV program? Contact jpugliese@paaap.org to learn how [Healthy Teeth Healthy Children](#), a program of the [Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics](#) can supply TFV to help kick-start an oral health initiative in schools.

School Nurse Mentorship Program 2025-2026

Penn State PRO Wellness, in partnership with the Moses Taylor Foundation, is excited to continue their Pennsylvania school nurse mentorship program and are looking for new applicants for the 2025-2026 school year. This program will connect skilled school nurses with early-career school nurses to create opportunities for collaboration and professional development.

Mentee Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree in nursing or a degree in another field with unrestricted registered nurse (RN) licensure, and meet one of the following criteria:

- Under an emergency certification, pursuing certification
- Have graduated from a CSN program within the last five years
- Or are a school nurse with less than three years of experience

Mentor Qualifications:

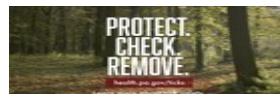
A current PA CSN with at least five years of experience within the school setting, or a PA CSN who has retired within the last three years.

Interested in being a part of this program? Fill out the application form located here:

<https://redcap.link/25-26SchoolNurseMentorshipApplication>

From the Bureau of Epidemiology

Tick and Lyme Disease Resources for Schools



Children ages 5 to 15 are at high risk for Lyme disease. The Department of Health has numerous materials and resources available for schools to help educate children on the risks of ticks and Lyme disease:

Tick/Lyme Information for School Nurses

- [Health Room Tick Removal Flyer](#)
- [Health Room Tick Removal Flyer - Spanish](#)
- [Act 120 Tick Legislation Guidance for School Nurses](#)
- [Act 120 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Division of School Health

A School Toolkit to educate children on tick safety

- [Tick Safety and Lyme Disease Prevention Introduction for Instructors](#)
- [Tick Talk 2025](#)
- [Tick Tag Game](#)
- [Tick-Tac-Toe](#)
- [Ticktionary](#)
- [Tick BINGO](#)

Looking for materials to distribute? Feel free to print out or request printed versions of the following materials:

- [Parents and Kids](#)
- [Pet Owners](#)
- [Trails Hikers and Bikers](#)
- [Campers](#)
- [Outdoor Events Attendees](#)
- [Camp Checklist for Parents](#)
- [Fight the Bite at Camp Booklet](#)
- [Tick Disease Myths vs Facts.pdf](#)
- [conozca la realidad sobre las garrapatas](#)
- [Tick Disease Myths vs Facts](#)
- [WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT LYME DISEASE](#)
- [WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT LYME DISEASE](#) - Spanish
- [ALPHA-GAL ALLERGY — RED MEAT ALLERGY](#)
- [ALPHA-GAL ALLERGY — RED MEAT ALLERGY](#)- Spanish

*Request printed materials by emailing your mailing address and number of materials to RA-DHLYMECONTEST@pa.gov.

2025 Lyme Disease Art Contest Award Ceremony

- A list of this year's winners is posted to [Lyme Art Competition | Department of Health | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#) and a recording of the ceremony is posted to [PAcast](#).

2025 Health Action Network (HAN) [Lyme Disease and Other Tickborne Diseases in Pennsylvania](#)

Environmental Health

The Division of Environmental Epidemiology (DEHE) has posters for you! Display our Keep Warm 4 Winter, Keep Cool 4 School, and Look Before You Leap! posters to help keep your students safe from extreme temperatures and harmful algal blooms. Send an email request to dehe@pa.gov to request printed posters. Please include your name, mailing address, the language and number of each poster you would like. Heat and cold posters are available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Nepali, Russian, and Vietnamese. Electronic PDFs and additional languages are also available upon request.

DEHE also recognizes the importance of reducing lead exposure among Pennsylvania middle school and high school students! Participating in high school rifle teams is a popular sport for many students and often offers scholarship opportunities but can contribute to lead exposure among teenagers if appropriate precautions are not taken. The Pennsylvania Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance (ABLES) program created a [fact sheet](#) specifically designed for youth participating in high school rifle teams, and actions they can take to reduce lead exposure while participating in the sport. For more specific guidance that can be shared with a rifle team coach or athletic coordinator please send an email request to dehe@pa.gov.



Nurse Licensure Compact Update

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) is an agreement among [40+ states and territories](#) to recognize each other's registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) who are licensed by compact members, similar to how states recognize each other's driver's licenses. Pennsylvania fully implemented the [NLC](#) on July 7, 2025, and Pennsylvania RNs and LPNs can now apply for a multistate license.

[The Pennsylvania Department of State Board of Nursing website](#) has numerous resources available for guidance including: video guides on how to apply, frequently asked questions, and a "Stay Informed" section for resources such as newsletters and webinars that provide nurses, nurse employers, and regulators with the latest information about the compact.

School Health Legislation

There are several pieces of proposed legislation related to school health. Note that none of the below legislation has been signed into law. We are sharing legislative highlights along with links so that you may follow proposed legislation as it progresses through the legislature.

[House Bill 1043](#)

Updating Epinephrine Options in State Law for Treatment of Serious Allergic Reactions or Anaphylaxis

- Referred to House Health Committee March 25, 2025.
- Would update language in Act 195 to reflect the following language:
- "Epinephrine delivery system" means a device approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration that contains a premeasured dose of epinephrine and is used to administer epinephrine into the human body to prevent or treat a life-threatening allergic reaction.

[House Bill 191](#)

Requires AED's at School Athletic Events

- Passed in House on June 9 and referred to Senate Education Committee on June 18
- Each school entity must offer CPR/AED instruction to employees and volunteers at least once every 2 yrs.
- Requires schools (public and nonpublic) to ensure at least one CPR/AED trained individual is present in each school building during the school day.
- Schools must develop or amend an existing cardiac emergency response plan for school day and school athletic activities; requires annual sudden cardiac arrest drills.

[House Bill 681](#)

Eliminating School BMI Screenings

- Passed in House on June 11 and referred to Senate Education Committee on June 18
- Measurement of height and weight to be completed by school nurse or other health care practitioner (removes the language "teacher").
- Students may be exempted from height and weight screening if parent or guardian requests in writing.
- Height and weight measurements shall be calculated into a body mass index by a school nurse or other trained health care practitioner employed by the school district solely for the purpose of reporting.
- A school district may not deliver a student's body mass index to either the student or the student's parent or guardian unless requested by the parent or guardian in writing.

Division of School Health

School Immunization Information and Resources

The Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition have numerous resources available as you begin the 2025-2026 school year.

Pennsylvania Department of Health

- [School Immunization Information](#)
- [School Immunization Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [School Immunization Rates](#)
- [PIERS](#)

Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition

- [School Nurses Toolkit](#)

Department Resources

- **Immunizations Questions/Contact:** Bureau of Immunizations 717-787-5681 [School Immunizations | Department of Health | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
- **School Immunization Law Report (SILR) questions:** Contact Janine Strick at 717-787-5681
- **Communicable/Vaccine Preventable Diseases:** Contact County/Municipal Health Dept:
 - [State Health Centers | Department of Health | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
 - [County-Municipal Health Depts | Department of Health | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
 - [28 Pa. Code Chapter 27. Communicable And Non communicable Diseases](#)
- **Reportable Disease:** Contact local Department of Health State Health Center (SHC)/district office or county/municipal health department (1-877-724-3258).
 - [Reportable Diseases | Department of Health | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
 - [State Health Centers | Department of Health | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

Additional Back to School Resources

- [Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners School Nursing Activities Calendar](#)
- [National Association of School Nurses Back to School Tips and Tools](#)
- [NASN's new fourth edition](#) of **School Nursing: A Comprehensive Text** includes a section on Supporting Students with Special Healthcare Needs, helping you to provide quality evidence-based care and offering one-of-a-kind guidance on health assessments, IEPs, 504 plans, and mental health care.
- [National Alliance on Mental Illness Back To School Resources](#)
- [SAMHSA Back to School](#)
- [AAP Tools to Support School Health Information Sharing](#)

Continuing Education Opportunities

- [2025 PA EMS Conference](#) September 2-5, 2025
- PASNAP Conference March 20 – 22, 2026
- [Pennsylvania Immunization Conference](#) June 18, 2026
- [Clinical Considerations in School-based Health](#)
- NASN (National Assoc of School Nurses) Clinical Guidelines, Toolkits, and E- Manuals
- [School Professionals Oral Health Training toolkit](#)—a resource designed to provide schools with essential oral health materials.
- [TRAIN PA](#)
- [PaTTAN](#)

Division of School Health

Back to School

The halls are buzzing, a vibrant hum,
The school year starts, the new year's come.
With backpacks packed and spirits bright,
Students return, a welcome sight.
But amidst the excitement, the bustle, and cheer,
There's a quiet hero, always standing near.
With a warm smile and a reassuring grace,
You're the calming presence in this busy place.
For scraped knees and sniffles, a tummy ache's woe,
You're there with a bandage, a kind word, and a glow.
You check for a fever, lend an ear to a plea,
A compassionate caregiver, for all kids to see.
From small bumps and bruises to worries untold,
Your care and your wisdom are precious as gold.
So as classrooms fill, and learning takes flight,
We honor the school nurse, a beacon of light.
Thank you for your patience, your empathy, your heart,
A vital part of the school, right from the start.
You're a friend and a healer, a protector so true,
A back-to-school blessing, in all that you do.



With Sincere Appreciation for all that you do for Pennsylvania PK-12 students, staff and families

The School Health Team