

School Health Update



DIVISION OF SCHOOL HEALTH

Chief of the Division of School Health

Colleen Schultz

coschultz@pa.gov (717) 787-2390

School Health Nurse Consultants

- Ed Woods – SC, SE and NW
edwoods@pa.gov (717) 787-8092
- Sheri Mountz – SW, NC and NE
smountz@pa.gov (570) 892-4080

**If you are not receiving the updates, please email your county's School Health Nurse Consultant with your email address and the county in which you work.

CHRONIC DISEASE COUNT



Data is collected between **March 15 and March 30**. The information should be saved for entry into the SHARRS report once opened in May. The SHARRS instruction manual **Chapter 13** provides further guidance on collecting this data.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/School%20Health/SHARRS%20User%20Instruction%20Manual%202020.pdf>



VISION SCREENING PROCEDURES

28 Pa. Code § 23.4

(Regulations) of the Department of Health requires vision screening tests to be given annually. The current regulations specify that the Snellen chart or other screening devices approved by the Department of Health shall be utilized for vision screening.

A reminder that the Welch Allyn Spot Screener does **not** test for visual acuity and is currently not recommended for screening in the K-12 school age population: [AAPOS](#)

Communicable Disease Questions

Please contact your state health center or your local county health department.

Please see website for contact information for your county.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/About/Pages/State%20Health%20Centers.aspx>

ACT 122 OF 2020:

VISION SCREENING

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

- [House Bill 1342](#)

Medical Marijuana Questions

Please contact 717-547-3047 or RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov

The Division of School Health has no regulatory authority over the use of marijuana products in schools. We may only refer you to the medical marijuana program and its website.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/Medical%20Marijuana/Pages/School.aspx>

RETENTION OF SHARRS INFORMATION

We recommend that nurses keep copies of their information for 5 years to give us a chance to validate statistical information, primarily the chronic diseases, etc. However, the school district might also have a separate records retention policy covering things that would affect finances. Although it might not specifically mention SHARRS, you may also want to check with your school district regarding any retention timeframes in their policy.

IMMUNIZATION QUESTIONS



Please contact the Division of Immunizations at 717-787-5681.

School immunization information can be found at:

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



House Bill 416 (Act 84) SEIZURE RECOGNITION AND FIRST AID

HB 416 will not take effect until school year 2022-2023. DOH, in consultation with Dept of Education, is to identify and approve an online course by June 30, 2022. Please note that per the bill language, the training is **not** a requirement.

[House Bill 416](#)



GUIDANCE ON SCHOOL BASED SCREENINGS AND EXAMS

With the 21-22 SHARRS Report opening on May 15, if you have screens/exams that are incomplete due to COVID-19 we are issuing the same guidance as we did for the end of the 20-21 school year. Make sure that whoever does the data entry places a comment in the “Comment” box on the “ADM PAGE” stating this, “Health screens and exams not completed/incomplete due to COVID19”. This will aide in expediting the processing of the report.



Dental Hygiene Services Program Authorization Plan (DHSP)

- The plan must be **submitted** between **April 1 to April 30** for the upcoming school year
 - Completing the authorization plan does not submit it. Make sure it is submitted- **any SHARRS user may submit the plan**
- A school is still required to employ or contract with a dentist when a school has a dental hygiene program
- The written plan must be **approved** by the following professionals when created, amended, and at least every 3 years:
 1. Certified School Dental Hygienists (CSDH) or CSDH/Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioners (PHDHP)
 - School Dentist (The School Dentist has dental responsibility for the school entity.)
 - Required even when the CSDH is a PHDHP
 - School Administration (Superintendent/CEO, Assistant Superintendent or Pupil Services Director)
- The Authorizing Dentist assumes supervisory oversight of the Certified School Dental Hygienist (CSDH)
 - The **signature** of the Authorizing Dentist must be obtained annually for each CSDH
 - The **signature** of an Authorizing Dentist is not required when the CSDH is a PHDHP
- Any school that does not submit the Dental Hygiene Authorization Plan **by April 30** will automatically be classified as a
- “Mandated Dental Program” and will not be able to convert to a hygiene program after April 30- **NO EXCEPTIONS** permitted due to the dynamics of the SHARRS programming