July 16, 2021

Dear Parents,

The safe and effective management of student medications is one of the most important functions we serve in the Health Center.  Recently, we have determined that our existing practice of medications arriving with students on the first day of school is in need of revision.  Some examples of situations that have led us to this conclusion are students arriving without medications, discrepancy between medication orders, and/or students arriving with medications for which we have no order.  In many cases, these discrepancies cannot be reconciled quickly and as a result, we are forced to send students home until the issue is resolved.

In an effort to manage these issues without interruption to the students’ attendance at school, we are implementing a change, beginning with the 2021-22 school year.  The change is as follows:

All medication orders, including diet orders, and actual medications in pharmacy-labelled bottles must be received in the Health Center by Friday, August 20, 2021.   This will allow nurses time to seek clarification and resolve any issues prior to the students' return on Monday, August 30, 2021.

Meeting this expectation can be achieved in one of several ways:

1. You may bring the medications and orders to the Health Center the week of August 16, 2021. If you choose this method, please make an appointment by contacting Irene Cimino, 410.444.5000, ext. 1335, prior to August 16.
2. You may mail the medications in pharmacy-labelled bottles and mail or fax corresponding medication orders to the Health Center prior to August 13, 2021.  Physicians may fax medication orders directly to the Health Center at 410-779-4778.

Mailing address:

**The Maryland School for the Blind**

**3501 Taylor Avenue**

**Baltimore, MD**

 **21236.**

**ATTENTION:  BLANTON HEALTH CENTER**

Please be sure to mail in time for items to arrive the week of August 16, 2021.

3.  If we already have your child's registration materials, including all Health Center paperwork, dated after March 1, 2021, and it has been approved for the 2021-2022 school year, and your student does not have any additional orders beyond what has already been approved, you need only send the medication in pharmacy-labelled bottles.  You may do this by mail by August 13 (see #2 above) or in person by scheduling an appointment for the week of August 16 (see #1 above).

We appreciate your cooperation and support in the implementation of this new process.    As always, if you have any questions, please contact us 410-779-4966 or email health#032#center@mdschblind.org.

Stay safe. Be well.

Patti F. Bell MS, RN, CPN

Health Center Manager