

Nursing Services at School

Role of the Nurse

Home and Community Care Support Services Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant provides services at school for children who have a medical condition that requires nursing care during the school day. Nurses perform duties at school that are medical in nature and are for a specific student. **Nurses are not able to perform** first aid, health or learning activities, nor monitor other children in the school, dispense medication to other students or supervise groups of students. **Nurses at school are responsible for providing medical care as outlined in a child's service plan developed their care coordinator.**



Emergency Situations



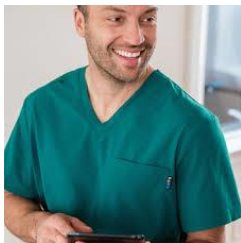
It is essential that every child receiving nursing care at school has an emergency plan in place. This plan will direct school and nursing staff as to the steps that must be taken in the event of an emergency. If 911 is called, the nurse cannot go with the child in the ambulance. The nurse will communicate all necessary information to the ambulance team.

Care for More Than One Child

Nurses at school may be providing care for more than one student at a time. This is known as cluster care which is put in place only after the situation has been assessed thoroughly by the Home and Community Care Support Services care coordinator and the nursing agency. This ensures the best care is being provided to all students who need nursing care at school.



Nurse Not Available



When a nurse becomes ill and cannot complete a school visit or shift, in most cases the nursing agency will provide another nurse when possible. If a nurse is not available to be at school for any reason, the nursing agency will contact the family and the Home and Community Care Support Services care coordinator.

When arrangements cannot be made to send another nurse, families may choose to keep their child at home or visit the school to provide their child with necessary care. Families are encouraged to work with the school, Home and Community Care Support Services care coordinator and the nursing agency to develop a backup plan for care at the start of each year to be used during such unexpected events as severe weather, bus cancellations or nurse absences or illness.

Important Information – Know Your Responsibilities

If the child will be away from school for any reason, the parent and/or school must contact the nursing agency with at least 3 hours' notice minimum **before the start of the school day**.



Parents are encouraged to communicate with the nurse about their child's medical care at school, understanding that nurses will only comment on the child's medical status and cannot comment on learning aspects of the child's day at school. To speak about learning or classroom issues, parents must speak with their child's teacher.

Nurses must follow professional standards set by the College of Nurses of Ontario along with all policies and procedures set by their individual nursing agency and Home and Community Care Support Services. Nurses must also follow the school's visitor policy.

Keep in Touch with Home and Community Care Support Services



1-800-810-0000



www.healthcareathome.ca

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the nurse's role at school? A nurse performs a specific medical task or procedure which is necessary for your child to attend school. Nurses are not assigned to monitor your child's condition or to be available for a child who may have health-related difficulties; for example, a possible seizure or allergic reaction.



Who do I talk to if I have concerns about the nursing care my child is receiving? If you are concerned about your child's care at school, please speak directly with the nurse. When issues are not resolved, please contact your child's Home and Community Care Support Services care coordinator.

If my child is sick, can the nurse come to my home instead of going to the school? Nurses are at school to provide care services offered by Home and Community Care Support Services to enable children to attend school. The child's family is responsible for arranging care when the child is unable to attend school.



Can the nurse go with my child on a field trip? Home and Community Care Support Services recognizes the value of class field trips and is committed to working with your family to find solutions. Parents/guardians should contact their child's care coordinator before the field trip and as far in advance as possible to discuss options for nursing care.

How will my confidential health information be shared with school employees? Home and Community Care Support Services and its employees – including nurses – are obligated to protect a person's private health information. Home and Community Care Support Services will obtain consent from the student's parent/guardian allowing information to be shared between Home and Community Care Support Services, the school board and school employees. Only information related to the care the child is receiving at school will be shared.



What information should be included in my child's emergency plan? Depending on the nature of your child's condition, the following information is helpful and should be included:

- Parent contact information including contact number(s) and e-mail address
- An emergency contact telephone number
- Physician's name and telephone number
- List of child's current medications/current medical protocols
- Current physician's orders
- Summary of child's recent hospitalizations and surgeries