

APPENDIX G. Manage student health care

Manage health-related absences

- The principal refers to the Student Attendance in Public Schools policy for information on supporting students who are absent from school for health-related reasons.
- Information about supporting students who are absent for extended periods due to ill health can be sought from the School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health (staff only) in consultation with the Department of Health.

Alternative attendance arrangements

- Where a student is participating in an alternative attendance arrangement (staff only) under Section 24 of the School Education Act 1999, the principal:
 - verifies that the student's duty of care needs will be met
 - informs the alternative school or provider of any information necessary to meet the student's health care requirements.
- If a student under an exemption (staff only) or Notice of Arrangement (staff only) requires health care support, the principal or Director of Education:
 - verifies that the student's duty of care needs will be met
 - advises the student and the student's parents that they will need to communicate with the employer or alternative provider regarding the health care support required.

Residential colleges

- The principal establishes appropriate protocols with parents and representatives of the residential college for managing student health care and responding to medical emergencies while students are under the school's supervision.
- Appropriate protocols may include:
 - gaining informed consent from parents to share student health care information between the school and residential college staff
 - promoting culturally responsive, collaborative approaches and practices between the residential college staff and parents regarding the completion of the Student Health Care Summary and documented plans for students who require health support at school
 - clarification of when responsibility for student health care can be transferred from parents to residential college staff; for example, it could be agreed that residential staff can take responsibility for completing the Administration of Medication form (staff only) for the short term provision of prescribed and non-prescribed medication
 - informing the residential college about the school's processes for responding to a medical emergency
 - establishing communication strategies to ensure that when a medical emergency occurs at school or the residential college, all parties are informed (school, parents, residential college)
 - establishing processes for regularly reviewing student health care needs.

Managing student health when students are off site

Students who require health care support may be at increased risk when engaged in off-site activities such as excursions and camps. When planning these activities, the principal should consider each relevant Student Health Care Summary and documented plan in the context of the particular activity and with reference to the Department's Excursions in Public Schools procedures and the Duty of Care for Public School Students policy.

Students 18 years and over

Adult students are ultimately responsible for their own health. The principal has a role in supporting students' health, in maintaining a safe and healthy environment and in protecting the school community from infectious diseases.

The principal:

- supports the health care needs of students 18 years and over as a part of their normal responsibilities for all students
- negotiates an appropriate management strategy with the student when they indicate that they require health care support from school staff
- negotiates arrangements with the student for sharing health information
- responds in accordance with the school's emergency management plan in the case of a medical emergency involving adult students.

Adult students should be encouraged to manage their own health where possible and can:

- complete their own health care documentation
- provide consent
- self-medicate
- request access to their school health records.

If the school undertakes to provide health care support to adult students, part of that agreement should be that relevant health information is recorded on SIS in the Medical Details (staff only) section and documentation is kept on file.

Legislation and Regulations

- The Age of Majority Act 1972 (WA) provides that once a person reaches the age of 18 years, they have full legal capacity. The majority of adult students can therefore take responsibility for managing their own health.
- Documentation completed previously by parents is no longer binding once the student turns 18.
- If a student's capacity to manage their own health is in question, parents can be asked to provide evidence of guardianship or a letter from a medical practitioner to the effect that the student is not competent to manage their own health. In such a case, the health care planning procedures for that student should be the same as those for students under 18, with the student being engaged in the process to the extent that their capacity allows.