

Procedure regarding student health

Updated 5/2024

Finnish Basic Education and general upper secondary school
Svenska bildningstjänster

In this procedure, student also refers to pupils in basic education.

Student medication

Students must carry the medication they need for their underlying condition and other necessary medication with them. Students generally take their own medicine. The school is not responsible for storing the students' medicines.

If the student develops an illness that requires medication or the school is receiving a child/young person who requires regular medication and is unable to manage their medication on their own, the guardians and the health and education services must agree on how to handle the student's medication during schooldays. A written plan must be prepared for an individual student's medical therapy (Ministry of Social Affairs and Health 2021: Turvallinen lääkehoito: Opas lääkehoitosuunnitelman laatimiseen, in Finnish and Swedish).

On the days they are at school, the public health nurse must hold an open reception that is available for students without appointment. The time that the nurse is available can vary from school to school. Medical care is not part of school health care. Any accidents during the student's free time must be treated at a health centre.

Participation in physical education

If the student cannot attend physical education class because of illness or injury, either fully or in part, the guardian must notify the P.E. teacher. However, the student generally must attend school as they are able. In general, students cannot be exempted from physical education – they must be given other suitable assignments or replacement lessons by the school.

Monitoring of absences

Student absences must be monitored and, in the case of significant absences, are followed up by the class teacher/supervisor/group teacher with the student and their guardian. There is a separate model for absence intervention.

Procedure for when a primary school pupil falls ill at school

- Primarily, the teacher should call the guardian if possible, tell them that their child has fallen ill, and ask them to come pick their child up if necessary.
- The teacher should send the child to the public health nurse if necessary. The nurse should assess the child and contact the guardians and teacher.
- If a pupil falls ill during a school day (fever, stomach flu), it is the guardian's duty to pick up the child and take them home, bearing the costs of doing so.

Procedure for when a lower or upper secondary school student falls ill at school

- Primarily, the student should call their guardian with the teacher and ask for permission to go home. Given permission, the student goes home on their own or the guardians pick them up.
- The teacher should send the student to the public health nurse if necessary. The nurse should assess the student and contact their guardians.
- If a student falls ill during a school day (fever, stomach flu), it is the guardian's duty to pick up the child and take them home, bearing the costs of doing so.

First aid situations

- The public health nurse participates in first aid measures at schools and educational institutions, but first aid situations are the responsibility of all personnel.
- If necessary, the school secretary files the accident report and provides an insurance certificate to the student.
- In the event of an accident, the guardian remains responsible for taking the student home/to treatment and the ensuing travel costs. In the event of an emergency, the school personnel calls emergency services.