

# NEW MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION PRACTICES

The state law that allows school staff members to administer medication to students while at school has been changed/revised. Those changes go into effect March 1, 2011 and affect both over-the-counter and prescription medication. The reason for the changes is to increase the safety of medication administration in schools. In the Beaver Dam Unified School District (BDUSD) alone, over 12,000 dose of medication are given every school year!

The changes affect both the training of staff who administer medication and how and what kinds of medication (now referred to as “drugs” and “drug products”) can be given at school. BDUSD policies, guidelines, and training are all being updated to reflect the changes in the state law.

## Here is what parents need to know:

- All medication (prescription and over-the-counter) given at school must be provided by the parent/guardian. School staff can only administer medication or drug products recognized as a drug or drug product in the official U.S. pharmacopeia and national formulary or official homeopathic pharmacopoeia of the United States.
- Prescriptions medication must be in a pharmacy labeled container with the student's name, name of health care practitioner, the name of the prescription medication and the dose.
- Over- the counter (nonprescription) medications or “drug products” must be in the original manufacture's package with the ingredients and recommended therapeutic dose clearly visible.
- School staff can only give over- the- counter medication in doses listed on the package as “therapeutic” or safe. School staff may administer a non-prescription drug or drug product to a student in a dose other than the recommended therapeutic dose only if the request to do so is accompanied by the written approval of the student's health care practitioner.
- In order to give a prescription medication a completed Medication Consent must be on file at school that gives written parental authorization to administer the medication and written instructions from a licensed health care practitioner. For over- the- counter medications or drug products the Medication Consent only needs the parent's signature. Medication Consent forms must be updated each school year and any time the medication or dosage changes.
- All non-emergency prescription medication for students in grades K-8 must be administered by school staff.
- All non-emergency prescription medication at the high school must be kept in a secure place determined by the principal and/or school nurse. A Medicating Consent form must be on file.
- Students in grades 6-12 may self administer oral non-prescription medications while at school with parental consent. Such medications may be kept by the individual student. The non-prescription medication must be in the original package/container.
- Students in grades K-5 may not self-administer non-prescription medications while at school with the exception of sunscreen. Parents must sign a medication consent form and provide the sunscreen product.

BDUSD's medication administration training and practices have always followed high standards. Therefore, parents will notice few changes. The most notable is that over the counter medications **MUST** be in the **original labeled package** and **only doses listed on the package can be given**. Also, sunscreen is now considered a medication and elementary students will need a signed consent or note to apply their own sunscreen at school.