

Protocol #31

Health Exam in the School Setting

The school nurse (RN) and school licensed vocational nurse (LVN) are important members of the school support team and are required to provide direct care to students for emergent, acute and chronic health needs. Physical assessment provides the nurse critical information for determining the plan of care. In the interest safety and protection of a student's right to privacy, the following parameters shall be followed as part of the physical assessment process:

- ☐ All physical assessments will be carefully explained to a student before proceeding and the student must provide positive verbal consent before the RN/LVN continues with physical assessments. If a student cannot provide positive verbal consent due to a condition such as autism, the family can be contacted by the school RN/LVN to address concerns with the student.
- ☐ The door will remain open for all physical assessments.
- ☐ In cases where there is no physical assessment, the door will remain open for all nurse interactions unless the student specifically asks for the door to be closed for confidentiality.
- ☐ The RN/LVN should not place a stethoscope under the student's clothing.
- ☐ The RN/LVN should not palpate with hands under a student's clothing.
- ☐ Students who are experiencing mental health symptoms such as anxiety, depression, or mania should not be touched by the RN/LVN unless another staff member is present.
- ☐ When touching a student to collect assessment information (palpation, auscultation or percussion) the door will remain open.

This policy will be posted in a prominent location in all School Health Offices.