Questions about Medications at School

Q. Does the school provide medication?
A. No, all medication to be administered at school must be brought to the school nurse by the parent or guardian. A Provider/Parent Authorization Medication must be completed and presented with the medication.

Q. May the parent/guardian bring and give medications to their child?
A. Yes, a parent/guardian may come to the school and give their child medication. The student will be called to the office or the clinic for the parent to administer the child’s medication.

Q. Why must medication be in the original, unopened container?
A. The original container provides information from the manufacturer about the over-the-counter medications, including the name of the medication, the proper dose, how the medication should be given, how often the medication can be given, possible side effects, and when the medication is no longer effective (an expiration date). An unopened container ensures that the medication has not been tampered with.

Q. What if my child’s medication or dosage changes?
A. New medications or different doses will not be given unless the parent/physician completes a new Provider/Parent Authorization Medication form. The information on the prescription bottle label must match the new authorization form.

Q. Can my child carry his asthma inhaler at school?
A. Yes, students may carry inhalers and epi-pens (both considered rescue medications) at school if both the parents and physician deem it appropriate. The Provide/Parent Medication Authorization must indicate that the student can “self carry”.

Q. Why must a parent bring the student’s medication to school?
A. The Madison City School System does not want to place any child in a situation where they may be confronted for drugs. Ritalin, as well as other drugs, has a street value. When the parents bring the medication to school, it ensures no other child will tamper with the medication.

Q. Why can’t my child keep his/her medication on his/her person?
A. If a medication is kept on a student, it could be lost or taken by another student. If the medication is found on the student it could be considered as a drug with consequences according to the Code of Conduct, which prohibits any medication (other than rescue medication) to be kept on person by a student at school. To ensure the health and safety of our students, all medication must be brought in by the parents in the original container and logged in with the school nurse or certified medication assistant. The only exception would be asthma inhalers, Epi-pens, or insulin with written permission from a physician.
Q. Why does the school need to count medication?
A. Counting medication keeps the parent and the school informed of the amount of medication the school has on hand.

Q. How long will my child’s over-the-counter (OTC) medication be given at school?
A. OTC medication will be given as needed throughout the school year, if appropriately completed Parent/Prescriber Medication form is signed by the parent and physician.  OR  OTC medication may be given to a student at school without a physician’s signature for 7 schools days with a Parent/Prescriber Medication form signed by the parent.

Q. What happens to my child’s medication at the end of the school year?
A. All medications not picked up by the parent/guardian by the last day of school will be destroyed.