

NYSCSH Clarification of School Health Examinations in Light of COVID-19 Pandemic

The Center has received additional requests for clarification regarding school health exams related to the recent NYSED Memo: *School Health Examinations in Light of COVID-19 Pandemic (5/21/20)*. Please see the [NYSED Health Examination Guidelines](#) for additional information.

Health Examination for School Entry, Mandated Grade Levels, CSE/CPSE, and Working Papers

[NYS Commissioners Regulation 136.3](#) requires:

- Schools to notify parents/guardians of students who did not provide a health certificate in the first 30 days of school that if one is not provided to the school within 30 days of such notice that an examination will be conducted by the medical director.
- Therefore, a health appraisal may not be conducted in the first 60 days of school for mandated grade level health exams.
- The NYS Education Department is encouraging schools to not schedule health appraisals with the medical director until early 2021 to allow parents/guardians more time to obtain a health examination by their healthcare provider.

Please Note: Students cannot be excluded from school if a health examination is not provided.

Additionally, the requirements for working papers and CSE/CPSE have not changed:

- Health examinations for working papers must be within the 12 months prior to the student's application for working papers per Ed Law §3220. Please see the [NYSED Student Support Service webpage](#) for additional information on working papers.
- Health examinations in accordance with Article 19 (the health examination shall not be more than twelve months prior to the first day of school in which the examination is required) are required for initial evaluations by the CSE/CPSE. Please note the CSE/CPSE may request a more recent health examination as needed.
- There is no requirement that a health examination is needed for CSE/CPSE reevaluation. The CSE/CPSE determines if a health examination is necessary for a student's reevaluation.

Health Examinations for Fall Sports Participation

- The Medical Director has the authority to clear students for participation in interscholastic athletics.
- The Medical Director may delegate review of the private provider health exam and a health history to an RN, but should provide written parameters for what information requires personal review by the Medical Director. [A Sample School Medical Director Delegation Statement is available on the NYSCSH website.](#)

NYSCSH Clarification of School Health Examinations in Light of COVID-19 Pandemic

Health Examinations for Fall Sports Participation

- Within 30 days prior to the start of each athletic season the parent/guardian must complete a written and signed health history, if a health examination was not conducted within 30 days of the start of the season. [A Sample Recommended NYSED Interval Health History For Athletics available on the NYSCSH website](#). If concerns are noted, the school medical director may ask for additional information.
- For the 2020 fall sports season a student may participate if they had a health examination in the 2018-2019 or 2019-2020 school years and the parent/guardian completes a health history form. Any health examination valid for the 2018-2019 or 2019-2020 school years is acceptable regardless of the date on the exam form.
- The 12-month time frame typically required for health exams for sports participation in the fall season has been waived.
- If the medical director chooses to conduct all health examinations for sports participation they may do so. However, he/she must provide ample opportunities for students to obtain that examination at school so that no student is excluded.
- The [Athletic Placement Process \(APP\)](#) remains unchanged and a current health exam will be needed as part of the APP.
- Students should plan to obtain the required health examination prior to participation in the winter or spring 2020-2021 seasons. This may change depending on the status of COVID-19 in the fall.