

Dear Parents,

It has been customary over the years for the school nurse to administer “over the counter” (OTC) medication such as Panadol to your child/ward when he/she presents to the sick bay/health office with a complaint of a symptom of a common illness. However, guided by **the Nursing Council of Jamaica and the Ministry of Education**, the school nurse will **no longer be able to give your child/ward any medication without the written order from a doctor.**

Please note the new medication policy /guidelines below:

1. If your child/ward has a **long standing medical condition such as asthma, allergies, seizures, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and other diseases** for which he/she takes **prescription medication**, you may leave a set of their prescription medication, properly labeled and current, with the nurse, in the event of a dose being missed or forgotten, or in the event of urgent need at school.
2. While we advise that **as much as possible** medications be given at home, if the time **for prescribed dosages** falls within school hours, (for example when being given three times daily), a set of medication **may be left with the school nurse** for administration at the time specified. **No more than 2 – 3 doses of the** medication must be presented to the nurse in the pharmacy labeled container.
3. If your child **does not take prescription medication** but suffers from frequent headaches, painful periods, sinusitis etc, and **uses OTC medications** such as **Histal, Cetamol/Panadol, Antacids (e.g. Dica etc.), Cetamol /Panadol cold and flu/ Multisymptom and others**, a **standing order should be provided from your doctor to the school nurse**. The nurse will keep this standing order on file and administer **medication** to the child **as needed, based on the nurse’s assessment.**

**Please remember that if your child is ill or in need of medical treatment he/she should not be sent to school.**

**There are no changes to our protocols for emergency medical treatment.**

**If you have questions regarding this medication policy or other issues regard the administration of medication to your child/ward while at school **you may** contact the school nurse.**

**Yours truly,**

**Margaret Campbell (Mrs.)**

**Principal**