

## Personal Health Information

### **Does the school/board have the authority to collect personal health information?**

It does, only with the consent of the parent/adult student. Under the Personal Health Information Protection Act (2004), the Board collects personal health information (from professionals and parents) with the consent of the parent/guardian/student and only as is reasonably necessary for the purpose of planning and delivering educational programs and services that best meets student needs. A signed consent form describing the proposed use of the personal health information is presented to the health professional authorizing the release of the record(s). Personal health information received by Board staff may be used for the purposes identified in the consent form and may be shared only with staff members if it is necessary for them to perform their duties; ordinarily to staff members who are working directly with or have responsibility for the student.

### **May I post a student's health information if they have a serious, life threatening allergy? [Edu-Law, Volume 3, Issue 2 \(Sabrina's Law\)](#)**

Parental consent gives you the right to do this; however principals must be mindful of the audience and who has access to it. For example, if this information is posted in a health room, does that mean that students will be able to see it?

Principals typically will conference with parents prior to the commencement of the school year to update this information. Ensure that signed consent forms are obtained and that these specify the manner in which you may post this information. This information could (and probably should) be shared with bus drivers, but check with parents to be sure. You will want to post health information in the form of an Emergency Action Plan. In fact, there is a requirement in Ontario that every school principal develop an individual plan for each pupil who has an anaphylactic allergy and that every principal maintains a file for each anaphylactic pupil. "*Sabrina's Law*" creates a communication plan for the distribution of related information.

### **Must a parent present a student's health card number at the time of registration?**

No, this is not necessary. The School Board does not have the authority to collect the health card number which is protected under PHIPPA. If this information is disclosed, it should not be recorded in the student information system and should be securely disposed of. Not volunteering a health card number should never preclude a student from field trips, extracurricular activities, etc.

### **When might it be permissible to disclose a student's medical condition?**

An outbreak of head lice but you shouldn't divulge the identity of the student. MFIPPA s.5(1) allows the Head of the Board for the purposes of MFIPPA to publicly disclose information about a grave environmental, health or safety hazard if it is in the public interest to do so.

**Principal's Best Practice:** With respect to outbreaks of pediculosis, always do what you can i.e. take reasonable measures, to protect the identity and dignity of the affected students.