

School Health Services COVID-19 School Closure Guidance

The purpose of this guidance is to ensure school personnel have the most up-to-date information for operating school health programming during the COVID-19 outbreak. The information in this document is updated periodically, as policy and service updates become available.

Medicaid Related Services – OT, PT, Speech Therapy

Therapy Services – On March 23rd, the Division of Medical Services (DMS-Medicaid) released a policy update memorandum regarding the use of telehealth for Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapy during the COVID-19 outbreak. The memorandum allows therapy to be provided in the home of a student via telehealth and widens the technology options which may be used for this purpose. On March 30th, the DMS added an addendum to the memo expanding allowable telemedicine services to include services provided by licensed therapy assistants. The DESE has developed a companion document, which provides clarifying points regarding the new DMS-Medicaid policy. Both DMS documents, as well as Clarifying Points for Schools may be found using the following links:

[DMS-Medicaid Memo: Use of Telemedicine to Provide Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy during the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

[DMS-Medicaid Memo: Use of Telemedicine to Provide Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy by licensed Assistants during COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

[DESE Clarifying Points for DDS Telehealth](#)

Medicaid Related Services - Behavioral Health Services

School-based Mental Health Services - On March 18th, the Division of Medical Services (DMS-Medicaid) released a policy update memorandum suspending the rule related to originating site requirements for certain behavioral health providers and expanding the technology options for delivering services, including telephones. The DMS document may be found at the following link:

[DMS-Medicaid Telemedicine Requirements for certain Behavioral Health Providers during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)

- District personnel may consider communicating with the existing school-based mental health/agency providers to assist with establishing a telehealth service model for students during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- For students without access to internet services, the district may collaborate with the school-based mental health/agency provider to establish a protocol to designate a public location (Safe Zone) where a secure Wi-Fi connection may be accessed from the beneficiary's vehicle/or other similar confidential location.

Medicaid Match Statements

The DESE received quarter 2 Medicaid Match statements for LEAs on March 26th. Match statements will be mailed to each district office. District personnel should look for these statements to arrive by Friday, April 3rd. Match payments should be mailed, no later than Friday, April 17th to the DESE at the following address:

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Attn: Sherri Pettit, MITS Specialist

4 Capitol Mall, Mail Slot #14

Little Rock, AR 72201

For questions regarding Match, please call Sherri Pettit (501) 682-4233

Arkansas Medicaid Administrative Claiming (ARMAC)

The ARMAC Random Moment Time Study will continue to operate through the remainder of the school year. Participating public school employees should continue responding to random moments. School personnel should respond based on current activities.

School Nursing Services

The DESE encourages school nurses work in conjunction with school administrators to establish protocols for staff re-entry to the workplace. Additionally, school administrators should consider utilizing school nursing staff to assist students and families with continued access to health services.

Screening School Staff/Workspace re-entry

- Setup appointments for staggered entry into the building or communal work area via shared Google Doc.
 - Recommending block times where only 10 personnel may be present at one time, in that building/space. Social distancing is evidence-based to work
- Point of entry using one door only, with screening by nurse or other school personnel (See [CDC School Guidelines](#))
 - PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) must be provided for this person-Gloves, Mask, Gown
 - [OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID](#) - See Medium Risk Exposure on page 20. For explanation of different types of PPE, see page 22
 - Checking temperatures
 - Asking essential questions about symptoms, contact with others, travel, etc.
 - [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Schools](#)
- Provide disinfecting products and gloves in communal work areas for staff to use
- Remind staff not to congregate together, but speak from a distance

- Continued Students Services– School nurses should consider “Open Office Hours” to ensure health service supports are available, specifically for those student with chronic health conditions and as a continue resources for parents to support any health related questions and concerns for their student.
 - [School Nurse Activities during School Closure](#)

School Health Profiles Survey

School district personnel participating in the 2020 School Health Profiles this year may continue to submit the Office Depot Incentive form. All orders are due by May 22nd. Order forms should be submitted via email to Aaron.Nooner@arkansas.gov.