

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Collaborative for Attendance Resources in Education and Health (CARE-H) Program

*A Partnership between DC Public Schools and Local Doctors and Nurses to Support Children's Health and Attendance in School*

#### 1. What is the CARE-H program?

At DC Public Schools (DCPS), we value the health and wellbeing of our students. We know that students who have their health needs met are better able to come to school and learn. We are pleased to share that DCPS is partnering with local doctors and nurses on a program to support our students' health and attendance in school. This project started in school year 2017-18 and is now available in all DC Public Schools.

Through the program, which is called the Collaborative for Attendance Resources in Education and Health or CARE-H, parents or guardians can give permission to DCPS to securely share attendance information with your child's doctor(s), nurse(s), and medical office staff for students who are enrolled at DCPS who are current Children's National Hospital patients. This information will help these healthcare professionals to provide special outreach and medical attention to children that might be missing school and their families.

#### 2. I'm a DCPS parent. How will this program help my child?

Doctors, nurses, and their staff are able to provide special outreach and medical attention if your child might be missing school. For example, your child's doctor may be able to recommend a new or different medication to help make your child feel better and to better control your child's asthma, allergies, or other condition. The medical care team may also be able to support other common issues that impact school attendance, such as transportation or child care needs.

#### 3. Why are DCPS and local doctors and nurses interested in making this connection?

DCPS and local medical providers share the goal of physically and mentally healthy children who are at school, every day, ready to learn. For many students with medical conditions such as asthma, allergies, sickle cell anemia, and diabetes, this can be harder. DCPS and local doctors and nurses are partnering to see if we can better support students' health and wellbeing when doctors and nurses know more about school attendance. Ultimately, we hope this will help students improve their academics.

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### 4. How will attendance information move from the school to a child's doctor?

With parental/guardian permission, attendance information will be sent securely from DCPS to your child's doctor through the [Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients](#) (CRISP). This is the regional organization that today provides secure access to medical data to thousands of local physicians. CRISP has patient lists from many local doctors and will share data only with the office of the child's doctor.

### 5. Which schools are participating in the program?

The CARE-H program is now available in all DC Public Schools.

### 6. How can my family participate?

To enroll, please complete the consent form in the [DCPS online enrollment packet](#), or at the [link here](#). The consent is valid as long as your child is enrolled in DCPS. You may withdraw your consent at any time by notifying your school registrar.

### 7. Who will have access to my child's attendance information?

Only doctors and nurses who participate in CRISP and identify your child as one of their patients will have access to your child's attendance data.

### 8. How is data kept safe in CRISP?

Protecting patient information in CRISP is a priority. CRISP follows all state and federal privacy and security laws to protect patient health information. The Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules are the main Federal laws that protect your health information. CRISP considers the privacy and security protections outlined by these laws to be minimum standards, and many of CRISP policies go above and beyond what is really required by law.

All information is transmitted using a secure data transfer tunnel which is made available in an encrypted email or secure web-portal. In addition, CRISP requires all participating providers to adhere to standards for identity proofing, ensuring that all people who have access to data made available by CRISP are permitted to do so.

### 9. If we participate in this program, will my child's health information be shared directly with the school?

No. Through this project, attendance data will go to medical providers, but no health information will flow from the medical provider to the school without separate consent.

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### 10. What other details are helpful for parents to know?

At this time, students who are enrolled in DCPS and current Children's National Hospital patients are eligible to enroll. In the future we hope to expand to additional health providers. If your doctor is not participating, they will not be able to receive the attendance information.

Once a student is signed up, their attendance information will be shared with their doctor(s) or nurses(s) as long as they are enrolled in a DCPS school.

### 11. How often will I need to give this consent?

Your consent will continue through your child's enrollment at DCPS, unless you withdraw your consent in writing. You can withdraw your consent at any time.

### 12. I have questions about the CARE-H Program. Whom can I contact??

If you have questions, please speak with your child's school registrar. You can also contact the DCPS Attendance team at [healthservices.dcps@k12.dc.gov](mailto:healthservices.dcps@k12.dc.gov) or 202-734-2022.