

TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Procedures for Casts and Crutches

PURPOSE:

- To ensure the safety and adequate accommodations of all students requiring a cast or crutches at school
- To ensure that students requiring a cast and/or crutches have been evaluated by a health care provider and that crutches have not been borrowed or loaned
- To ensure that students have been trained by a medical professional in the proper use of crutches

All students who return to school with a cast or crutches must have a doctor's note which includes the following:

- Date of visit, diagnosis, doctor/provider's signature and stamp
- Any restrictions (P.E., sports, recess, weight-bearing, stairs, etc.)
- Date(s) of restrictions
- For crutches, the doctor/provider must indicate that crutches are to be used at school and that the student has been instructed in proper use of crutches. The District does not recommend that a student with crutches be allowed to ambulate stairs. However, if a student's physician is allowing this, it must be stated so in writing from the physician. Crutches will not be issued or loaned from the Health Office.

A doctor's note must be received before the school can accept responsibility for the student. For students who require a wheelchair at school, notify the District Nurse. Never take crutches away from a student unless the crutches are being used for a purpose other than intended.

When a student returns to school with crutches **without** the required documentation:

1. Attempt to obtain a doctor's note by calling the parent and requesting a note to be faxed while the student remains in the Health Office.
2. If a doctor's note cannot be obtained within a reasonable period of time, notify the Site Administrator.
3. Unless otherwise directed by the Site Administrator, the student must be picked up by the parent and a doctor's note obtained before the student may return to school.

For elementary schools, there should be a designated area during P.E., recess, and lunch for students with casts and crutches to eat and participate in alternative activities such as board games, puzzles, and activity books.

Individual schools should work with their Site Administrator to provide additional procedures specific to their campus to address the following:

- Early-release passes between classes so students can avoid crowded hallways, locker areas, etc.
- TUSD *Authorization for Medication at School* if medication is required at school (i.e. pain)
- Procedure for use of elevator (if applicable)
- Personal hygiene/bathroom issues
- Any restrictions
- Other accommodations and instructions (i.e. wheelchair)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Health Office.

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Information for Parents Regarding Casts and Crutches at School

To ensure student safety, all students who return to school with a cast or crutches must have a doctor's note which includes the following:

- Date of visit, diagnosis, doctor/provider's signature and stamp
- Any restrictions (P.E., sports, recess, weight-bearing, stairs, etc.)
- Date(s) of restriction
- For crutches, the doctor/provider must indicate that crutches are to be used at school and that the student has been instructed in proper use of crutches. The District does not recommend that a student with crutches be allowed to ambulate stairs. However, if a student's physician is allowing this, it must be stated so in writing from the physician. Crutches will not be issued or loaned from the Health Office.

Exclusion from school may apply if the requested documentation is not provided. Your child will need to check in with the Health Office on the first day back to school so that accommodations can be made for his/her safety at school. If possible, parent/guardian should accompany the student to the Health Office so that the following may be discussed:

- Early-release passes between classes so students can avoid crowded hallways, locker areas, etc.
- TUSD *Authorization for Medication at School* if medication is required at school (i.e. pain)
- Procedure for use of elevator (if applicable)
- Personal hygiene/bathroom issues
- Any restrictions
- Other accommodations and instructions (i.e. wheelchair)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Health Office.