



Office of School Health

To: Office of School Health Staff
From: Gail Adman, Executive Director of
Nursing Services
Cheryl Lawrence, Medical Director
Date: January 27, 2023

RE: Disposal of Medication in Office of School Health (OSH)

Medications brought to school for students with current Medication Administration Forms (MAFs) and Diabetes Medication Administration Forms (DMAFs) belong to parents. OSH staff must strongly encourage parents to pick up unused and expired medications at the end of the school year.

If parents do not pick up unused medication and/or expired medication, OSH staff should document in ASHR or the MAF Binder that the medication has been abandoned. Medication disposal should be as follows:

- Medications involving Sharps should be disposed of in Red Sharps Container supplied by OSH or DOE's Office of Occupational Safety and Health (OOSH).
- Oral Medications should be placed in a container and mixed with water or salt to enhance the destruction of the medication. The container should be sealed with tape. Care should be taken to ensure students do not have access to trash. OSH no longer encourages the flushing of medications.
- HFA inhalers provided by a family can be discarded in the trash.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is advising New Yorkers to discontinue the practice of flushing medications as a method of disposal. For more information see DEC website:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67720.html>