

# Services to Schools

This list describes an overview of current Interior Health services to schools

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## Aboriginal Health

IH Aboriginal Health staff are currently not providing services directly to schools. Visit [Aboriginal Health](#) on the IH website for more information on this program area.

## Audiology (Hearing)

Audiology services are provided to children aged 0-19 through local health unit/centre hearing clinics. Visit [Hearing Health](#) for more information.

### Examples of Activities:

- ◆ Hearing Assessments
- ◆ Hearing Aid Assessment, selection, sale, fitting and monitoring
- ◆ FM equipment and Assistive Learning Devices (ALD) needs assessment, selection, fitting, monitoring
- ◆ Technical services, e.g. maintenance of hearing aids and FM/ALD equipment; sale and fit of ear molds, swim molds, hearing aid and FM/ALD equipment accessories
- ◆ In-service training for school staff on hearing topics such as: hearing development, hearing loss, hearing aids and FM/ALD equipment

## Child and Youth and Health Schools Regional Knowledge Coordinators

The Regional Knowledge Coordinators collaborate with school districts to support health promotion and provide health education support and resources for Health Promoting Schools Coordinators. They also lead program development and provide education support for public health staff working with school aged children and youth.

### Examples of Activities:

- ◆ Communication of health information to schools, parents, administrators i.e. [IH School Health Website](#)
- ◆ Participation in district Health Promoting Schools Coordinator education events
- ◆ Presentation of research data on key health issues
- ◆ Development of standard resources for use by Public Health Nurses

## Dental

IH Dental staff link with schools to act as a resource, monitor dental health trends and support the development of healthy dental practices. Visit the IH [Dental Health](#) web page.

### Examples of Activities:

- ◆ Conduct Kindergarten-age surveys every 3 years as per Ministry requirement
- ◆ Assist schools/teachers/nurses with dental referrals
- ◆ Provide resources such as dental kits, displays and educational handouts

## Dietitians

Public Health Dietitians are available to work with school districts to develop school nutrition policies, support healthy school food environments, and help implement the Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools.

Public Health Dietitians also work with Health Promoting School Coordinators to provide resources and support for implementing food literacy programs. For nutrition resources to support curriculum visit Interior Health's [School Nutrition](#) web page for topics

such as school gardens, the Cook it. Try it. Like it! program, and Farm to School initiatives.

## Environment Health/Protection

Health Protection personnel work to ensure that schools are safe environments for children. Visit [Your Environment](#) for more information.

### Examples of Activities:

- ◆ Inspection and permits for food premises that are open to the public e.g. cafeterias
- ◆ Monitor water quality of drinking water
- ◆ Licensing of child care programs on school grounds
- ◆ Consultation on food safety, outdoor and indoor air quality including radon gas, water quality, enteric and zoonotic diseases, sanitation and other health protection issues

## Integrated Tobacco Program

Tobacco Reduction Coordinators and Enforcement Officers provide support to tobacco reduction initiatives in schools. Please visit [School Districts: Tobacco Reduction](#) for information and resources.

### Examples of Activities:

- ◆ Support Tobacco and Vapour Free Legislation
- ◆ Support Compliance
- ◆ Provide a lending library of resources
- ◆ Promote cessation resources (QuitNow, BC Smoking Cessation Program)
- ◆ Promote National Non-Smoking Week and World No Tobacco Day

## Interior Health Children's Assessment Network (IHCAN)

IH staff and a network of service providers offer assessment and diagnostic services for children with complex behavioural conditions, e.g. Autism, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and other Complex Developmental Behavioural Conditions. Referral must come from a medical professional.

## Medical Health Officer (MHO)

Medical Health Officers assist in addressing school health issues and in the formation and implementation of healthy school policies. Medical Health Officers also have a legal responsibility and mandate under the School and Public Health Acts for protecting the health of students in the school environment.

### Examples of Activities:

- ◆ Acting as medical consultants for school health related issues
- ◆ Providing consultation to public health staff as well as community health providers on school health issues
- ◆ Supports emergency response situations, providing leadership for certain issues
- ◆ Promoting wellbeing
- ◆ Protecting health and preventing disease in the school setting

## Mental Health and Substance Use

Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) clinicians provide most voluntary direct services to children and youth with mental health concerns. IH is involved with MCFD and schools in supporting youth with mental health problems who are transitioning to adult services and supports. For Substance Use services, IH staff and contracted agencies partner with schools to support early intervention services for youth

who may be at risk of, or have, early involvement with problematic substance use.

Visit [Mental Health Promotion](#)

### Examples of IH Promotion Activities:

- ◆ Development of District Parent Community Teams to support parent education
- ◆ District level support for social/emotional learning as well as substance use and mental health literacy.

### Examples of IH Clinical Activities:

- ◆ Early Psychosis Intervention
- ◆ Works with MCFD and RCMP on urgent response crisis counselling
- ◆ Eating disorder services
- ◆ Acute and tertiary care services
- ◆ Substance use services

### Examples of MCFD Activities:

- ◆ Suicide Prevention Protocols
- ◆ Community-Based Child Youth Mental Health Clinicians

### Example of Substance Use Services Activities:

- ◆ Youth substance use counsellors link with schools to provide early intervention services and promote effective screening and referrals

## Nursing Support Services (NSS)

NSS coordinators provide assessment, care plan development and education, consultation, resources and ongoing monitoring services for children ages 0-19 with chronic and/or severe, complex health conditions. Visit [Nursing Support Services](#)

### Examples of Activities:

- ◆ Training and support of school staff to provide delegated care

- ◆ Provision of nursing care services in very complex situations
- ◆ Referrals to other services as needed

## Public Health Nursing

Public Health Nurses work in partnership with school staff, students, parents and the community to promote health and prevent disease and injury for school-aged children and youth. See [School Health Nurses](#) and [Health Promotion Resources](#)

### Examples of Activities:

- ◆ Collaboration and consultation on Health Promoting School Initiatives
- ◆ Immunization
- ◆ Infectious disease follow-up
- ◆ Consultation and support with health education curriculum and activities
- ◆ Consultation for students with special health needs, i.e. anaphylaxis training, diabetes training, seizure management
- ◆ School based clinics offering information, support and care for students
- ◆ Harm reduction initiatives

## Vision

IH staff deliver kindergarten vision screening programs in schools. Children identified with possible vision concerns are referred for diagnostic assessment and follow up by vision specialists. See [Vision](#)

## Website

For more information or to contact IH staff regarding these services, please go to the [Interior Health School Health Website](#)

