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## Recent Changes in School's Healthcare Policies: New requirements for notices and training

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The General Assembly of the State of Tennessee has issued a series of amendments to Title 49 of the Tennessee Code Annotated. Specifically, this memo will address changes in the notification of meningococcal disease immunizations, training for adrenal insufficiency.

T.C.A. § 49-6-5005 previously required a Local Education Agency ("LEA") to provide parents and guardians with information regarding meningococcal disease and the effectiveness of vaccinations against meningococcal disease at the beginning of every school year. That statute has been amended to extend that the same requirement to nonpublic schools as well. The amendment also placed a burden on the department of education, in consultation with the department of health, to provide information to the LEAs and nonpublic schools to assist in this effort.

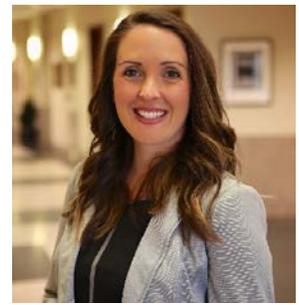
T.C.A. § 49-50-1603, "Adrenal insufficiency; rules and guidelines for training and treatment" was added this year. The statute requires the state board of education and the department of health, board of nursing, board of pharmacy, and department of children's services to adopt rules for the designation and training of school personnel for the administration of medication and rules for the administration itself. Each LEA shall adopt these policies and procedures; however no LEA board shall require untrained school personnel to administer medication. Once school personnel have completed the educational training, they may receive from the parent or guardian of the student, a medication that treats adrenal insufficiency that has been prescribed by a health care professional as defined under Title 63 of the Tennessee Code Annotated. Any LEA employee administering this medication in accordance with the statute shall not be liable for any injury resulting from the administration of the medication or the performance of any related healthcare procedure.

*Clifton N. Miller and Erica R. Marino are available to consult with school systems and other governmental entities regarding these and related matters.*

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