ثانوية رفيق الحريري
RAFIC HARIRI HIGH SCHOOL

Health and Safety Policy

26-27

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RAFIC HARIRI HIGH SCHOOL

Vision

Empowering a community of self-directed learners and responsible global citizens.

Mission

RHHS aims to develop compassionate, respectful, and lifelong inquirers.

We are committed to promoting well-being, education for sustainability, and innovation, nurturing learners to become proactive change agents in an interconnected world.

At RHHS, we strive to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for all staff, students, parents, and visitors. Our School Health and Safety Policy outlines the guidelines and practices in place to ensure a supportive environment for the entire school community.

Health and Safety Standards

Healthy Environment: RHHS is committed to maintaining a clean, safe, and hygienic campus. Regular inspections and cleaning protocols ensure that classrooms, restrooms, cafeteria, water tanks, common areas, and playgrounds are sanitary and safe for all.

The school implements a comprehensive pest control program, ensuring that the entire campus is inspected and treated at regular intervals throughout the year. This proactive measure will help maintain a safe and hygienic environment for all the community.

Immunizations and Screenings: All students must be up to date with their immunizations, as required by Lebanese health regulations. The school conducts regular health screenings, including vision (KG1 to Grade 7), hearing (KG1, KG2), and general check-ups, to monitor the wellbeing of students.

Health Records: Parents are required to submit complete and updated medical records for their children, including immunization records and any known health conditions or allergies. This information is securely stored and treated with confidentiality.

Illness and Injury Management

Health Services: The school has clinics with qualified nurses available during school hours. First aid services are offered for minor injuries.

Emergency Response: In the event of a health emergency or injury on campus, the school will immediately contact parents and arrange appropriate care. For severe cases, emergency medical services will be called to transport the student to a nearby hospital.

Illness Protocol: If a student becomes ill during the school day, they will be sent to the clinic for evaluation. Students exhibiting symptoms of contagious diseases (e.g., fever, flu, vomiting) will be sent home and must remain there until fully recovered. A doctor's note is required for readmittance in certain cases.

Medication Administration: Prescription medications will only be administered by the school nurse with written authorization from the student's physician and parent. All medications must be clearly labeled and stored in the clinic.

Health Education

Health Curriculum: RHHS integrates health education into its curriculum. The nurses, in collaboration with the education department, focus on topics such as Asthma, obesity, diabetes, personal hygiene, nutrition, physical activity, mental health, health awareness, dangers of drug addiction, and the prevention of injury. This curriculum aims to empower students to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.

Mental Health and Emotional Well-being: At our school, mental health is not treated as a standalone aspect but is embedded in our daily rituals and routines. All members of the school community share the responsibility for supporting students' mental health. The school counselor empowers frontline staff to offer the necessary support and guidance. Counseling services are available to assist students in managing stress, navigating social challenges, or addressing emotional difficulties. We foster a positive and inclusive environment where students feel safe expressing their concerns.

Nutrition and Physical Activity

Nutritious Meals: The school cafeteria follows healthy meal guidelines, offering a variety of nutritious food options that support student growth and development. We encourage students to make informed food choices and avoid excessive consumption of sugary or unhealthy snacks.

Physical Education: RHHS promotes an active lifestyle through its physical education program, which includes a variety of sports and physical activities designed to enhance fitness, teamwork, and overall physical health.

Allergy and Special Health Needs

Allergy Awareness: The school takes allergy management seriously. Parents are required to inform the school of any known allergies, and the school nurse will work with parents and students to minimize risks, particularly in the cafeteria and during school events. Emergency measures, such as the use of Decadron are in place for students with severe allergies. EpiPens, when needed, are provided by parents.

Special Health Needs: For students with chronic health conditions (e.g., asthma, diabetes), individualized health plans will be developed in collaboration with the student’s healthcare provider. These plans ensure that the school is prepared to meet the students’ specific needs during the school day.

Parent and School Communication

Open Communication: RHHS encourages ongoing communication between parents and the school. Parents should inform the school of any changes in their child's health status. Regular updates and cooperation help us ensure the safety and well-being of every student.

Emergency Contacts: Parents must provide accurate and up-to-date emergency contact information so the school can reach them in the event of an emergency.

COVID-19 and Infectious Disease Protocols

Preventive Measures: RHHS follows all governmental health regulations and guidelines to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19. This may include mask mandates, social distancing, regular sanitization, and health screenings as needed.

Reporting and Isolation: In case of confirmed infectious diseases, affected students or staff will be required to stay home until they have fully recovered and are cleared to return.

Staff must be aware of the health and safety aspects related to their work:

All staff responsibilities	Take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others. Report any health and safety concerns such as incidents of violence, verbal abuse, or hazards. Avoid misuse or interference with health and safety equipment.
Supervisors, lab technician, IT manager, nurses and maintenance staff responsibilities	Conduct regular safety inspections as directed or as needed. Take corrective actions to ensure the safety of everyone on campus. Ensure machinery and power equipment are properly guarded, safe, and restricted to authorized users. Provide accessible first aid and fire safety equipment within the division. Store and label hazardous materials correctly and minimize exposure risks. Monitor health and safety standards and encourage high safety practices.
	Report any and safety concerns to the head of health division/principal.

Policy Revision

The RHHS team reviews the health and safety policy regularly, systematically and on a yearly basis, and the revision process is open to all members of the school community.

***The policy was reviewed and reflected on by the principal and school nurses in October 2024.**

Bibliography

New England Association of Schools and Colleges. (n.d.). *School health and safety for independent schools*. https://www.neasc.org/school-health-and-safety-independent