Why Have a School Health Inspection Program?

- Children need a clean, healthy, and safe environment to learn.
- Unsanitary conditions in schools could lead to public health problems in the community.

Who Is Responsible for Healthy Schools?

- School Officials (RSA 189:24 and RSA 281-A)
- NH Department of Education (RSA 189)
- Local Health Officers (RSA 128:5)

Which Schools are included in the School Health Inspection Program?

The NH Department of Education School Health Inspection Program includes:

- Public Schools,
- Public Charter Schools, and
- Private Schools.

Child Care Centers are regulated by the NH Health and Human Services Department (DHHS).

How Often are School Health Inspections Required?

- Public K - 12 – Once every 5 years.
- Public Charter K - 12 – Once every 5 years.*
- Private K - 12 – Once every 3 – 5 years.

*This was changed in January 2011.
What does a Health Inspection Include?

PART I
• Review the other inspection reports, if applicable:
  – Asbestos (pre 1990 facilities),
  – Water and septic,
  – Furnace,
  – Elevator lift, swimming pool, and animal vaccinations.
• Review the school’s self-inspection forms for:
  – Playgrounds and sports fields,
  – Science labs and art rooms; and
  – Dormitories.

PART 2
• Walk through and inspect school facilities including:
  – Modular buildings,
  – Grounds,
  – Off-site program facilities, and
  – Dormitories, if applicable.
• Complete and submit Health Inspection Form to School Officials.

Sections of Health Inspection Form

Part I - Identification and Instructions
Part II - Checklist
  • General Conditions Throughout Building
  • Water and Septic Systems
  • Toilet Facilities
  • Food Preparation and Dining Areas
  • Other (animals, smoking signs, self-inspection forms)
Part III - Approval Status

Part III of Health Inspection Form
Please check one of the options below. This building/area:

_____ Is Approved.
_____ Has Conditional Approval (CA). Items need attention.
_____ Is Not Approved. Items must be resolved very soon or the school faces closure.

Other Considerations
• The inspection is a snapshot in time.
• Some schools are very large and these inspections take time.
• Health Officer expertise varies.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

GO RED SOX!