

HOSPITAL/HOMEBOUND STAFF FAQ'S

What is Hospital/Homebound service?

The purpose of Hospital/Homebound Education Services is to enable students to continue their education while absent from school during the school year because of illness or related medical/psychiatric reasons. The program should not be used as the only option for students with severe behavioural or emotional problems. As well, Homebound Education Services are not intended to serve students registered under the Home Education section of the School Act or registered under Distance Education.

How do I request Hospital/Homebound services?

We have made the referral process for Hospital/Homebound services as simple and efficient as possible.

- A completed District Support Services Form "A" and the Student Information Verification form are required for all service requests.
- Signatures from the referring teacher, administration and parent/guardian are mandatory.
- Please fax or email a signed Form "A" and Student Information Verification to Inclusive Education Support at (250) 748-4617, Attn: SSS-1 or sss-1@sd79.bc.ca.
- The completed Form "A" will be placed in the student's file and is valid for the remainder of the school year.

Once this process is complete, the Hospital/Homebound teacher will contact the home and initiate service. Please feel free to contact the Hospital/Homebound teacher if you are unsure if a particular student qualifies for this service. You can email Donna Powell at dpowell@sd79.bc.ca.

How much time does the student have to miss before I can request Hospital/Homebound service?

For most students, the standard is two weeks of absences. However, if you know that the student will be missing for that amount of time due to upcoming surgery, or other foreseeable circumstances, you can request service ahead of time. This allows the student and family to access services quicker, in most cases as soon as the caregivers feel that the student can resume completing schoolwork.

What if I have a student that has a Chronic Health designation (PDCH) or has a history of absences due to chronic health issues?

In these cases, it is advisable to request Hospital/Homebound Service before it is needed. Many students have their referrals completed at the beginning of the year. In these cases, the services can be started after one week of absences.

Who can initiate Hospital/Homebound services and how long can the student access support?

Hospital/Homebound Services can be initiated by classroom teacher, school counsellor, administration, School Board team and/or parent guardian. Hospital/Homebound support will continue until the student returns to school or the end of the school year.

Can Hospital/Homebound be used for a student that attends school part time or partial days?

No, this service is mandated and intended for the student that is unable to attend school at all. The student must be enrolled in District 79 to access services. As well, this service is not intended to serve students registered under the Home Education or Distributed Learning section of the school act.

What is the role of the Hospital/Homebound Teacher?

The classroom teachers maintain the ongoing responsibility for coordinating the student's educational program with the Hospital/Homebound teacher acting as a liaison. Regular contact between the Hospital/Homebound teacher the principal, the classroom teacher(s) and the parents or guardians and access to all available district resources is expected.

Form A Referral for Inclusive Learning on LA/RT website.