

# School Health Support Services

## Enabling students with medical needs to succeed in education

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Ontario Health atHome’s School Health Support Services program is designed to support children with medical needs – whether a short or long-term illness, physical disability, medically complex condition or requiring assistance following an injury or hospital stay.

A team of qualified professionals provides home and community care services – at home, at school, or in both settings, depending on individual needs – with a goal to empower the child to live safely at home, attend school, thrive alongside peers and be an active participant in their community.

For services to be provided in school, the student must require the eligible medical and/or rehabilitative assistance to enable them to attend school, participate in school routines or receive instruction.

### Your Care Coordinator

Every eligible student is assigned a dedicated Care Coordinator who will collaborate with the student, their family and other partners in the circle of care to:

- Assess the child’s needs and establish family-centred goals to address them
- Develop a collaborative care plan in partnership with the family, school and community partners
- Arrange and monitor services to ensure the child’s needs are met
- Connect family with other community services and resources, when needed
- Promote family independence in managing the child’s care
- Reassess, revise and update the care plan as the child’s needs evolve



### To be eligible for in-school supports a child or youth must:

- Have a valid Ontario Health Card
- Be enrolled in a publicly funded school, private school or home-school program
- Be assessed by a Care Coordinator and deemed eligible for one or more services
- Require professional or personal support services to attend school, participate in school routines or receive adequate instruction (including while being home-schooled)
- The school or home setting must have the necessary physical features to accommodate the services

### Available support may include these services:

- Care Coordination
- Nursing
- Physiotherapy\*
- Dietitian
- Medical Equipment\*
- Personal Support Workers\*
- Occupational Therapy\*
- Speech-Language Therapy\*

\* **Please note:** These services are not offered in public schools through Ontario Health atHome. For school-based therapy services in public schools, please refer to [provincial Children's Treatment Centres \(ontario.ca/page/childrens-rehabilitation-services#section-4\)](https://ontario.ca/page/childrens-rehabilitation-services#section-4).

### How to make a referral

A referral from the student's school principal or special education representative is required. Parents may contact either the school or Ontario Health atHome to begin the process.

#### For more information

Call 310-2222 (no area code required) or visit [ontariohealthathome.ca/community-care/school-supports/school-support-services/](https://ontariohealthathome.ca/community-care/school-supports/school-support-services/)



### About Ontario Health atHome

Ontario Health atHome coordinates in-home and community-based care for thousands of patients across the province every day. We assess patient care needs and deliver in-home and community-based services to support your health and well-being. We also provide access and referrals to other community services.