

FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Reg. No. 400-39
Subject: HEALTH: DO NOT RESUSCITATE	Issued: 10/10/01
Preparing Office: Office of the Superintendent	Amended: 9/11/15

I. Policy

II. Definitions

- COMAR – Code of Maryland Regulations
- CPR – cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- DNR – do not resuscitate
- EMS – emergency medical services
- FCHD – Frederick County Health Department
- MIEMMS – Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems
- MOLST – medical orders for life-sustaining treatment

III. Procedures – General Statement of Regulations

Maryland law (COMAR 13A.05.05.08-.09) requires that each school district develop guidelines for emergency care, including the provision of CPR and first aid. Additionally, state statutes require each school district, in conjunction with the local health department, to develop procedures to ensure the provision of health services to students with special needs (COMAR 13.05.05.08).

DNR is defined as withholding of CPR, artificial ventilation and other related life sustaining procedures in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest. A DNR order is separate from other aspects of the student’s care. Unless otherwise specified, there should be no implied or actual abandonment of other supportive care such as: administration of oxygen, suctioning, use of the Heimlich maneuver, control of bleeding and pain, and positioning for comfort.

This regulation addresses requirements that must be in place in order for two distinct groups, the school health staff and 911 emergency personnel to honor DNR orders.

A. Parent Responsibilities to Effect a DNR/MOLST Order Honored by School Staff

Planning for the Potential Use of the DNR/MOLST order:

1. The parent/guardian is responsible for providing a MOLST form from a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician’s assistant (healthcare provider) licensed in the state of Maryland to the school where the student is enrolled.
2. The parent/guardian must also notify the school, in writing, of their agreement with the DNR/MOLST order.

3. Both the health care provider and parent/guardian must provide a written statement affirming the continuance of the order and all its conditions annually at the beginning of the school year.
4. School staff will honor written MOLST directives from the parent/guardian and health care provider. However, 911 emergency personnel will be called as appropriate.

B. Parent Responsibility to Effect a DNR/MOLST Order Honored by 911 Emergency Personnel

Upon their arrival at school, the 911 emergency personnel will assume responsibility for the student's care. If the parent/guardian wishes to have the emergency medical staff follow the DNR/MOLST order, the following must be provided:

1. For a student under 18 years of age, an original or a copy of the DNR/MOLST order accurately completed and signed by a health care provider and the parent/guardian must be provided by the parent/guardian.
 - a. The MOLST form must be used. (provided by health care provider)
 - b. Assistance in obtaining the form is available from the health services office.
 - c. The parent/guardian may also wish to request the state issued DNR bracelet or medic alert emblem for the student to wear. The bracelet or medic alert emblem may be worn on the wrist (recommended) or hanging from a necklace. Information regarding the bracelet and medic alert emblem is found on the MOLST form.
2. When the student becomes 18 years of age, the student must authorize the MOLST order. If the student lacks the capacity to make informed decisions about his/her health care, a certificate of incapacity signed by two health care providers must be obtained in accordance with Health General Article, §5-606(a) of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* and a new EMS MOLST form must be signed by the health care provider and the parent/guardian, now considered a surrogate or guardian.
3. For EMS to honor the DNR/MOLST, the EMS staff will request to see the DNR/MOLST form even though the student may be wearing the state-issued DNR bracelet or medic alert emblem.

C. School Responsibility to Effect a DNR/MOLST Order

After the DNR/MOLST order and written parent/guardian agreement are obtained, the school nurse will be responsible for arranging a conference to outline the expectations and procedures for school/health staff to follow. The conference may include, in addition to the registered nurse, the parent/guardian, the school principal/designee, the Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) Health Specialist, FCHD School Health Director or designee, and other individuals as deemed appropriate. During this conference:

1. The Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment Individual Student Plan will be discussed and completed.
<http://www.fcps.org/student-services/forms>
2. The Medical Emergency Protocol will be discussed and completed.
<http://www.fcps.org/student-services/forms>
3. The parent/guardian should indicate who is to be informed of the DNR order. The parent/guardian should be advised that anyone who is not directly informed about the MOLST/DNR order or is unaware of its meaning will initiate CPR.
4. The registered nurse is responsible for ensuring that all staff members listed on the Individual Student Plan, including transportation supervisor and routine bus personnel, are trained to follow the planned procedures.

D. Activating the DNR/MOLST Order if Physical Deterioration Occurs

Every effort should be made to transport the student from school at the first signs of a deteriorating condition as indicated on the Medical Emergency Protocol.

1. Contact the parents/ guardians for direction.
2. If necessary, call 911 and follow the interventions previously established with the parents and physician. (Medical Emergency Protocol)
3. Provide comfort and supportive care, but do not initiate CPR in the event of a respiratory or cardiac arrest.
4. Have the original or a copy of EMS MOLST form available for EMS staff upon their arrival at school.
5. If aware that the student is a hospice patient, notify hospice as appropriate.

E. Revocation of a DNR/MOLST Order

The DNR/MOLST order may be revoked at any time by:

1. Cancellation or destruction of the MOLST form with the consent of the parent/guardian or the student, (if the authorized decision maker); or
2. An oral statement made directly to school staff/EMS providers by the student, if still able to respond, or a request by the parent/guardian to request resuscitation. EMS personnel will not recognize an oral revocation made by anyone other than the student or parent/guardian.

F. Procedures for the Death of a Student at School

If the student dies before being transported from school, as normal an atmosphere as possible should be maintained throughout the school.

1. Contact the parent/guardian, health care provider, and other persons as designated on the student's plan.
2. Seclude the student's body in the health room (or other appropriate location.)
3. EMS will notify the local law enforcement agency and will remain with the body until the police arrive.
4. The police will contact the student's personal health care provider to ascertain if he/she will sign the death certificate.
5. Upon release by the police, follow the parent's instructions regarding transportation of the student's body.
6. Secure the assistance of the crisis team as soon as possible.
7. Notify the superintendent of schools, or designee and the local health officer, or designee if a student with a DNR/MOLST order dies while in school.

G. Procedures for Student Distress/Death on the School Bus

If the student suffers distress or dies while being transported on the school bus:

1. Stop the bus and follow existing emergency guidelines.
2. Call 911 and the transportation office.
3. Alert EMS that the student has a DNR/MOLST order and share it upon their arrival.
4. Ask additional EMS staff or police personnel who may respond to remain on the scene as long as necessary to provide help with the needs of other students and staff.
5. Notify the superintendent of schools, or designee and the local health officer, or designee if a student with a DNR/MOLST order dies while in school or on the way to/from school.

Approved:

original signed by

Theresa R. Alban
Superintendent