

CONDOM AVAILABILITY: FACTS FOR PARENTS



Why are condoms being made available in schools?

The CPS Sexual Health Education Policy was updated in December 2020 to include a requirement that schools make condoms available to students in grades 5-12.

The Chicago Department of Public Health provides condoms at no cost in an effort to reduce rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unintended pregnancies among young people. In Chicago in 2019, teens and young adults accounted for more than **75%** of reported cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea.

Research shows that having condoms available at schools does not increase sexual activity among students, but it does increase condom use and decreases rates of STIs among those who are already sexually active.

Why are condoms available for 5th-8th graders?

- Condom availability in 5th grade is developmentally appropriate and aligned with the CPS Scope and Sequence of Sexual Health Education.
- In 2019, **11%** of CPS middle schoolers reported being sexually active, and **only 58%** of those students had used a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse. That means **over 1 in 10** students in grades 6-8 may need access to condoms.
- Even if students are not sexually active, they deserve access to knowledge and resources in advance, so they can be ready to make healthy choices if they do decide to have sex.

Note: Condoms are available for students as well as the broader school community, including staff, parents, guardians, and other community members to access as needed.

**Contact the Office of Student Health and Wellness at
773.553.KIDS (5437) or oshw@cps.edu with questions.**