



**WCHD**

# Wilson County Health Department

1801 Glendale Drive • Wilson, North Carolina 27893

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February 23, 1999

Worth Heath  
Regional Environmental Health Specialist  
2842 Allison Rd.  
Kinston, NC 28504

Dear Worth:

During the Child Care Workshop in Greenville, the question was raised regarding .2820 (d) of the Rules Governing the Sanitation of Child Care Centers. The rule states "medications which require refrigeration shall be stored in a locked box or locked container in a designated area for such storage in a refrigerator which is not accessible to children." What is the official interpretation of this rule? Does it mean that this refrigerator cannot be accessible to children, in particular, in the infant/toddler food service area.

Your prompt response will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

M. Ray Hudnell, Jr.  
Environmental Health Supervisor



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GOVERNOR

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NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES SECTION

March 30, 1999

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mr. Ray Hudnell, R. S., Environmental Health Supervisor  
Wilson County Health Department

**FROM:** Worth Heath, Jr., Regional Environmental Health Specialist  
Children's Environmental Health Branch

**THROUGH:** Ed Norman, Program Supervisor  
Children's Environmental Health Branch

**SUBJECT:** Storage of Medications in Refrigerators

In your letter of February 23, 1999, you asked for an interpretation of rule 15 A NCAC 18A, .2820 (d). This rule states "medications which require refrigeration shall be stored in a locked container in a designated area for such storage in a refrigerator which is not accessible to children." You asked specifically about the use of the infant toddler food service area refrigerator to store medications.

The rule requires that medications be kept inaccessible to children for safety reasons. If medications are stored in a locked box, then children are adequately protected. Making the refrigerator inaccessible to children is not necessary to adequately protect children. If boxes are not locked, it should be absolutely marked as a six point demerit item under item # 32 on the child care sanitation inspection form (DENR 1617).

Thank you for your inquiry. Please contact me at (252) 522-2253 if you have further questions regarding this matter.

cc: EHSS Standard Distribution List