A Parent's Guide to Dracut School Health Services

The school nurse is a liaison between home and school regarding health matters. The effective management of health care needs requires a partnership among the student, parents, physicians and the school. The school nurse works closely with all those concerned to coordinate the resources of school, home and community to benefit the total health of all students and staff.
The school nurse provides nursing care for accidents, illnesses, medications and emergency situations. She also performs stated mandated screening programs, assists in promoting good health, a safe and healthy environment, and serves as an important resource of information about health concerns. Please contact the nurse when questions on your child's health arise.

Student Emergency Information Sheets

Please complete **both sides** of the Student Emergency info form. This sheet provides the information necessary to reach you in case of an Emergency and updates your child's health information from year to year. Please inform the Nurse of any changes in the state of your child's health anytime during the school year.

Health Emergencies

Please notify the school nurse yearly of and Medical Conditions, such as Diabetes, Asthma, Seizures or Life Threatening Allergies to such things as Peanuts, other foods, insect bites or medications, which may cause an emergency situation with your child. Please provide the *Epipen* or *inhaler* if ordered. The school nurse will work with you to develop a Health Care Plan to meet your child's health needs.

Physical Exam Requirements

A physical exam is *required* by law for all students entering a new school and for every child entering Kindergarten, 4th, 7th and 10th grades. Kindergarten physical exams MUST also include a Lead Test with results and a Vision Test with results. A hearing test though not yet required is highly recommended.

Athletic Examinations

A documented physical examination is required for *All* students according to the MIAA guidelines while participating in a school sponsored sport.

Immunization Requirements

School immunization laws, Chapter 76, Section 15 of the state laws, require all immunizations to be up to date for all children to attend school:

1. A record of all required immunizations signed by your physician is required for your child to enter public school.
2. All records must have full dates.
3. Records are audited by the nurse. You will be notified of missing data.
4. Schools have the right to exclude students from school until medical record requirements are complete.

Kindergarten Entry
5 DtaP 4 Polio 3 Hepatitis B
2 MMR 1 Lead TB Risk
2 doses of Varicella or Hx of chickenpox

Grades 1-6 Entry
4-5 DtaP/DTP or > 3 doses TD
3 Hepatitis B 2 MMR >3 Polio
2 doses of Varicella/Hx of chickenpox

Grades 7-12 Entry
4-5 DtaP or ≥ 3 doses Td; plus 1 Td booster
≥ 3 Polio 3 Hepatitis B
2 MMR or 2 Measles/1 Mump/1 Rubella
1-2 Dose of Varicella or Hx of chickenpox

School Screening Programs

Vision and Hearing: Vision Screening is done in grades 1-5, 7 + 10 and Hearing Screening is done in grades 1-3, 5, 7 + 10. Parents will be notified of any failures that necessitate a medical follow-up with your own physician or optometrist and a response letter with testing results will be required.

Heights, Weights and BMI's: are done in grades 1, 4, 7 + 10 to monitor your child's growth and development. Parents will be notified of results and a MD referral will be requested if necessary.

Postural Screening: The law states all students in Grades 5 thru 9 must be screened for scoliosis. Physician referral forms will be sent to parents of any student who fails this screening.

Illnesses

In accordance with the American Academy of Pediatric guidelines, ***please do not*** send your child to school when signs of illness such as Temp > 100°, persistent cough, vomiting or unknown rashes are present.
Please notify the school nurse if your child contracts any contagious diseases including but not limited to: Strep Throat, Head Lice, Mumps, Conjunctivitis, Scarlet Fever, Chickenpox, Mononucleosis or Whooping Cough.

Post Illness Guidelines

Children must be **fever free** without the use of fever reducing medications such as Tylenol/Motrin, on antibiotics for Strep Throat, Impetigo and Conjunctivitis and/or symptom free from Vomiting or Diarrhea for a full 24 hours *before* returning to school.

Head Lice: Children must be treated, nit free and checked by the school nurse before being readmitted to school. Please stay with your child while he/she is being checked.

Medication Policies

Please note: Nurses are not able to give Tylenol, Advil, Tums etc. *without* a written physician order *and* parental consent. Nurses may give Tylenol for a fever greater than 102° to prevent febrile seizures while awaiting parent pick up.
Also, in grades 7-12, nurses may give over the counter medications for toothaches, dental pain, menstrual cramps and simple headaches with prior written parental consent.
Please obtain needed forms from the school nurse or the Dracut Public Schools Website.

Medications (both prescription and over the counter) should not be taken during school hours, if at all possible. Please try to achieve the medical regimen at home.

Long Term Medication: Medications that are to be given in school *daily* for such conditions as ADHD, Asthma, etc. Please obtain a medication permission packet from the school nurse. One form must be signed by parents giving consent and the other by the physician ordering the medication. Medications must be brought in to school by a responsible adult, in a pharmacy labeled container and signed in with the nurse, never with the child! No more than 30 – day supple will be accepted at a time.

Short Term Medications: Physicians prescribed medications, such as antibiotics, requiring administration for 10 days or less may be taken at school. The pharmacy labeled container with the child's name, may be used in place of the physician's signed order. Please send a signed and dated note with the medication including reason it is being given, directions on how much, when to give and the length of time to be given in school. A separate bottle or vial just for school would be appreciated.

No Medications will be accepted loose in sandwich bags, envelopes, tissues, etc and will NOT be given or allowed to be taken by your child.