

Inspired Teaching School
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FROM THE HEALTH SUITE

July 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Health Suite is open for students with health concerns, illnesses and injuries that occur during the school day. Health screenings (e.g. vision, hearing, height and weight, etc.) assisting students with chronic illnesses, making referrals when appropriate and teaching a variety of health-related classes are some of the services that will be provided to your children. In addition, there are some important things you need to know relating to school health issues.

- **CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND ALLERGIES:** If your child has any known health conditions that need special attention during school hours (e.g. *asthma, diabetes, nut or bee sting allergy, etc.*), please let your child's teacher and the school nurse know in writing, so that the appropriate measures can be made.
- **WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME:** Children are encouraged to stay home when ill in order to aid in recovery and to prevent the spread of diseases to others. Children with fever and other symptoms should remain home until symptom free for 24 hours (and not requiring any fever reducing medication for 24 hours). A child diagnosed with a contagious illness (e.g. strep throat, pink eye, etc.) must stay home until completing the first 24 hours of antibiotics and/or cleared by their physician. Students who are diagnosed with head lice must be treated for lice before returning to school. Verification of treatment for lice is required (either the box of the medication used or a note from the parent). Before returning to school the child will need to be checked for lice by the nurse. In addition, *please notify the nurse and your child's teacher if an extended absence is due to an illness or if you child has been diagnosed with a contagious illness.*
- **STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR:** *Encourage all family members to practice good hygiene, such as frequent hand washing, covering cough with elbow if tissue is not available, keeping hands out of "T Zone" (eyes, nose and mouth) and reminding children not to share personal items like drinks, food unwashed utensil and grooming items such as combs, brushes and hats.*
- **AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION AND MEDICAL PROCEDURES:** Before any medication (e.g. *Inhaler, Tylenol, Insulin, etc.*) is administered or medical procedure (e.g. *neb treatment, catheterization, etc.*), a physician's written order and parental consent is required. Forms can be downloaded from <https://dcps.dc.gov/health>. Please contact the school nurse for additional details regarding our medication and procedure policy if necessary. Children are not permitted to carry their own medication at school, including cough drops. The only exceptions with a student being able to carry their own emergency medications (Epi-Pen or Inhaler) is if appropriate forms are brought to the health suite and the physician approves that student may self-administer.
- **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:** Please be sure that you provide a local phone number where you can be reached at during the school day. In the event that your child has an illness or injury that needs urgent attention, you will be contacted; however your child may be taken to the hospital via ambulance.
- **IMMUNIZATIONS:** Upon enrollment, students must present evidence that they have received the required immunizations appropriate for their age.
- **PHYSICAL AND DENTAL EXAMS:** School Health Certificates (physical exams) and Dental Assessment Forms must be current and are required on all students. The health and dental certificates are valid for 365 days from the date of the exam. These forms can be obtained from the Health Suite or downloaded and printed from <https://dcps.dc.gov/node/1179665>.

Our Student's health is very important to us and we strongly believe that good health supports readiness to learn. I look forward to working with you and your child during the upcoming school year. If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the School Nurse.

Thank you,
Maureen Hooker, RN