

Director of Youth Health Services for Dawson County Schools
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Dear Parent or Guardian:

Optimal learning requires good health. School Nurses are proud to be part of the team effort that supports student success. As we work with you this year, we need your assistance and cooperation in preparing for the possibility that your child may need to take medication, become ill, and/or have an accident during school hours. We hope this letter will help explain some of our procedures. School health services supplement rather than replace parental responsibility. Our program is designed to assist parents/guardians in devoting attention to child health, discovering health problems early, and encouraging the use of the services of their physicians, dentist, and community health agencies when needed. The school nurse is a resource for health-related issues and for health education. School nurses are also a liaison between education, health care agencies, and the home.

SCHOOL MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

IF medications can be given at home before and/or after school hours, please do so. However, if medications must be given during school hours, please contact your child's school nurse immediately in order to complete the required *Medication Administration Procedures*.

- A parent and/or legal guardian, as well as a medical provider, must complete and sign a *School Medication Authorization Form* (this form is available in the clinic & on the website).
- A parent, legal guardian, and/or designated adult must bring in medication with the signed *School Medication Authorization* to the school clinic. (At no time may medication be in the possession of a child)
- **Prescription medications** must be clearly labeled with the pharmacy label (physician's name, medication, strength, dosage, date, and time for administration). If medication needs to be given at home and school, please ask your pharmacist to fill the prescription in 2 labeled containers, one for home and one for school.
- **All over-the-counter medications** must be **FDA Approved** and in the original containers. If a child requires an over-the-counter medication on a frequent basis, the parent must furnish the medication. If a child requires an over-the-counter medication that is not listed on the school health permission form, the parent must furnish the medication and sign a *School Medication Authorization Form*.
- If your child has a **Life-Threatening Condition** (i.e., Asthma, Diabetes, or Allergic Reaction), permission can be granted so that the student may carry his/her medications on them (Inhaler, glucose tablet, Epi-pen, Glucagon, and/or Insulin, etc.). Such permission will require a signed and completed *School Medication Authorization Form, Emergency Action Plan, and Authorization for Self-Administration Form*. (If a student has any of these medical conditions, a parent conference with the school nurse and staff is needed to develop a proper health plan for the student. It is the **responsibility of the Parent/Guardian** to ensure the staff is aware of the child's healthcare needs. Students with asthma or severe allergic reactions are encouraged to keep a second inhaler or Epi-pen in the clinic for emergency use during school).
- District 2 Public Health has established guidelines for the administration of Emergency Albuterol and/or Epipen. These medications can be given for any emergent episodes of anaphylaxis or asthma.
- All unused and/or discontinued medications that the students received during the school year must be picked up by the parent prior to the last day of school, or they will be discarded.

STUDENT ILLNESS/INJURY

- If your child(ren) becomes infected with any viral or bacterial illness, he/she must be **Symptom & Fever Free** (temperature below 100.4 degrees) for **24 hours** without being given any fever-reducing medications before returning to school. If your child has reoccurring vomiting and/or diarrhea, they must stay home.
- If your child is home with a **Communicable Illness**, please contact the school nurse so the parent(s) of other classmates may be alerted of symptoms. (Impetigo, ringworm, shingles, & scabies must be under treatment to return to school. A child with bacterial pink eye may return after 24 hours of physician-prescribed treatment.)
- If you find **Head Lice** in your child's hair, please notify the school nurse. The school nurse can advise you on how to properly treat and manage head lice and treat the affected household(s). The school nurse will also check your child's hair before returning to class.

Please contact your school nurse if you have any questions or concerns. By working together, we can strive to ensure the health and well-being of your children so that they can gain the most from their experience at school.

Clinic Extensions: BMES-1217, RES-1123, KES-2253, RVES-1902,
DCMS-1305, DCJHS-1806, HS-1430