

INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH SERVICES FOR PARENTS OF KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS:

Our Lady of Grace School receives “Health Services” through a contract with the Edina Public Schools. The Health Office is staffed by a Health Services Associate (HSA). The HSA is trained in first aid and CPR. The HSA provides first aid, gives medications, assists with vision and hearing screening, and helps track student immunization records under the direction of Patty Stang, the Licensed School Nurse (LSN).

The LSN is a Registered Nurse with a bachelor’s degree in nursing and certification as a public health nurse license. Patty works with parents, students and teachers to help students participate fully in the school program. Examples of the LSN’s work include setting up health plans for students with chronic health conditions or disabling conditions, performing prescribed medical treatments and teaching students about healthy behaviors. Our Lady of Grace School has a health office staffed by the HSA who provides care during the school day. The LSN consults regularly with the HSA regarding first aid and medical care during the school day.

MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL

Whenever possible, medications should be given during non-school hours. When it is necessary for a student to receive medication during the school day, the student must bring the following for each medication:

- Medication in the original container with directions.
- Written permission from the parent.
- A written order from the physician for all medications **including over the counter medications** for pain relief.

Medication authorization forms are on the website or can be obtained in the health office.

All medications must be kept in the Health Office unless special arrangements are made with the LSN. The following special arrangements may be made:

- Students with emergency Epi-pens may carry them if deemed necessary by the parent and the LSN.
- Students with inhalers may carry them if the parent provides this request in writing, the physician has provided a written order for the student to self-carry and the student has demonstrated proper use of the inhaler.

CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

Parents should consult with the LSN if they have a child with a diagnosed chronic health condition such as asthma, diabetes, seizures, or severe allergies. The nurse, student, and family work with the child's health care provider to develop a health plan that will assist school staff in understanding and accommodating the student’s health needs.

ILLNESS

Sick children can spread illness to other students and staff. Your child should not come to school if he or she has had:

- A fever of 101 degrees F or more in the past 24 hours
- Vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- A skin rash that has not been diagnosed by a health care provider.

When students become ill or are injured at school, parents are contacted first. If neither parent can be reached, a call is made to other individuals listed on the emergency card.

Students will not be sent home unless accompanied by a responsible adult. It is an expectation that students will be picked up within one hour of the call to the parent. Call the school office attendance line at 952-929-5463 ext. 236 when your child is absent due to illness. Please notify the school health office at 952-929-0218 if your child has a condition that can be spread to others such as strep throat, chickenpox and head lice.

FIRST AID

If a student requires more than basic first aid, 911 will be called and the parent will be contacted.

STAY-IN REQUESTS FOR RECESS

The school's position is that children who are well enough to attend school are well enough to take part in gym and outdoor recess. A request to stay in will be honored if made by the child's physician in writing and filed in the school health office.

SCREENING

Vision and hearing are important to a student's ability to learn. Health services staff screen students in selected grade levels to identify potential vision and hearing difficulties. All kindergarten students are screened for hearing difficulties.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

It is important for parents to understand the immunization requirements. Minnesota Statute, Section 121A.15 states "...no person over two months old may be allowed to enroll or remain enrolled in any elementary or secondary school..." without proof that he/she has received the immunizations appropriate for age or that the student should not have shots for medical reasons or because of parent beliefs, which require a signed exemption.

Immunizations Required for Kindergarten:

- Five (5) diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis
- Four (4) oral polio
- Two (2) measles-mumps-rubella received after 12 months of age
- Two (2) varicella (chickenpox) unless the child has had chickenpox
- Three (3) hepatitis B

At Kindergarten Registration, please bring one of the following:

- Parent record of immunizations that includes the month, day and year of each immunization.
- Copy of immunization records from physician or clinic.
- Written statement, signed by a physician that the child should not receive the vaccine

OR

written statement signed by the parent and notarized that the child has not been immunized as prescribed because of the conscientiously held beliefs of the parents. If you do not provide this information at Kindergarten Registration, please send the information to the Health Office at your child's school as soon as possible.

Immunization information must be received before the first day of school.

Questions about Health Services can be directed to Patty Stang, Licensed School Nurse, at 952-848-4962 or to Betty Elliott, Health Services Coordinator, at 952 848-4890.