

Welcome to a new school year! Just a few reminders and healthful hints from the school nurse!

Role of the school nurse: The school nurse has a multi-faceted role within the school setting, one that supports the physical, mental, emotional, and social health of students and their success in the learning process.

Healthy children are successful learners.

Forms: Please complete all information forms carefully and completely. Please provide cell phone numbers, additional contact names, and phone numbers on a separate sheet of paper if needed. Please provide all appropriate health information pertaining to your child. Be sure to include information about such things as diabetes, asthma, seizures, severe allergies, as well as any medication information. **Please remember to update all of this information throughout the year. Up to date health information and contact numbers are critical if your child becomes sick or injured during the school day.**

Medications: In the event your child needs to take medications while at school, please be sure to have the "Permission to Administer Medication" form completed by the child's physician and parents. If your child has asthma, a severe allergy to food, or insect stings, Diabetes, Seizures, or any other chronic disease an "Asthma Action Plan," "Allergy Action Plan" and Individual Health plans must be completed by the doctor each school year. Forms are available in the school office or from the nurse's office. An adult must transport all medications in the original container from the pharmacy, with the student's name, name, dosage and frequency of the medication on the label.

Immunizations: State law and District policy require written proof of every student's immunization status. **Any student who does not meet the minimum state-required immunizations or exemptions by the first day of school will be excluded.** If your child is not up to date on immunizations, you would have received a letter from the nurse.

Physicals: Required prior to entering PreK, K and if new to the school and done within 365 days to entry. **Any student who does not have a current physical exam by the first day of school may be excluded.**

Illness/Injury: Any student with a temperature of 100° or higher, vomiting, diarrhea, or signs and symptoms of a possible communicable disease, will be sent home. Please keep students home until they remain fever-free for 24 hours **WITHOUT** the aid of medication and are free of vomiting or diarrhea symptoms for 24 hours prior to returning to school. All children with suspicious rashes must be excluded from school until the rash has been determined non contagious by a doctor. Students who appear to need stitches, x-rays, or extended observation for an illness or injury will be sent home for possible medical evaluation. If your

child appears to have a life-threatening or serious illness-injury, the emergency squad will be called. Every effort will be made to notify you of this necessity, so **please be sure all phone numbers and health care information on the emergency form are kept current.** In the event the school is unable to reach a parent/legal guardian when a student is ill or injured, the nurse will contact those persons so designated by the parent/legal guardian on the student's emergency medical form. Only those designated individuals on the form will be permitted to pick up or release the student from school. Also, if parents will be out of town for an extended stay, they need to provide the school, in writing, with the name(s) and phone numbers of those individuals responsible for the student's care in their absence.

Health Screenings: All students are screened each year for height, weight and blood pressure. Vision is checked in PreK, then every other year beginning in kindergarten through grade eight. Hearing is tested starting in pre-kindergarten through grade three and grade seven. Fourth, sixth and eighth grade students will have their backs screened for scoliosis; privacy is provided. You may opt your child out of this exam by sending in a letter with your signature. If there is an abnormal finding, parents will be notified by letter.

Feel free to contact your child's school nurse with updates about your child's health or if you have any concerns regarding your child. The nurse's phone number is 856-453-1882 x5.

The school nurse page on the district website contains valuable information, including information for parents and guardians and tips and resources on common childhood health concerns. Please visit the School Nurse web page at: <https://sites.google.com/a/fairfield.k12.nj.us/lois-halleck---school-nurse>

Have a safe and healthy school year!

**Lois R Halleck, APN,C
Fairfield Township School Nurse**