

## **WELCOME TO HEALTH SERVICES**

The Health Services Department of the Irvington Union Free School District supports the belief that children who feel healthy and safe are better prepared to engage in their educational program and to be successful students. Each school has a Health Office staffed by a Registered Professional Nurse (RN). School nurses promote health on a daily basis by assessing and responding appropriately to emergency situations and assisting students, staff and visitors with medical conditions.

### **Immunizations:**

Public Health Law- Section 2164: All Students enrolling in any school in New York State for the first time shall submit a written statement signed by a health care provider that they have been immunized as per NYS standards.

#### **Proof of Immunization requirement include:**

- Original signed certificate of immunizations
- New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS)
- New York Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) immunization record
- Immunization records from previous school
- An out of state immunization registry, specifying the dates and products administered
- An official record from a foreign nation may be accepted without a health practitioner's signature or a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner diagnosed history of varicella
- Serologic (blood test) proof of immunity can be accepted in place of vaccination only for the following diseases: mumps, rubella, varicella and hepatitis B

#### **Exemptions from this requirement:**

**Medical exemption-** NYSDOH form (<https://www.health.ny.gov/forms/doh-5077.pdf>)

must be signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in NYS and renewed annually.

The exemption must:

- specify which immunization is medically contraindicated
- contain sufficient information to determine if a medical contraindication to a specific immunization exists
- specifies the length of time the immunization is medically contraindicated

### **Physical Exams:**

New York State Education Law requires that a physical exam be on file at the Health Office for all new entrants and for students in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11. All physical exams **must** be performed **within 12 months from the start of the school year**. The physical exam form must be handed in within 30 days of entrance into school or required grade.

Physical exams are also required for students interested in participating in a school sport. A physical for sports participation needs to be less than a year old at the start of the sports season.

### **Medication Administration and Form:**

This form must be completed **each school year** for **ALL** medications (including OVER THE COUNTER AND PRESCRIPTION). It needs to be **signed by both a parent/guardian and health care provider (MD, NP or PA)** before medication can be given to your child. **ALL medications must be provided in their original labeled containers and kept in the Health Office. Stock medication will no longer be available in the health office.**

All medications coming to school must be brought to the Health Office by a child's parent or guardian. Please do not send medication with your child. NYS Education Law prohibits children from carrying medication.

At the end of the school year, a notice is sent home for the parent/guardian, or an adult, to pick up the remaining medication. **MEDICATION THAT IS NOT PICKED UP BY THE DESIGNATED DATE IS DISCARDED, AS PER NYS MANDATES.**

### **Medication and Field Trips:**

Students who require medication during the school day will have that dosage sent along on the field trip. The medication will be administered under the direction of the nurse/chaperone.

### **Health Screening:**

- Health examinations will be required for new entrants and students in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11.
- Vision screening for color perception, distance and near vision acuity will be required for new entrants within 6 months of admission to school. Distance and near vision acuity will be required in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11.
- Hearing screening will be required for new entrants within 6 months of admission to school and in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11.
- Scoliosis screening will be required in grades 5 and 7 for girls and grade 9 for boys.
- A letter is sent home if there are any findings that would cause concern or need medical follow-up.

### **Illness or Injuries at School:**

Should your child become ill or injured during the day, the following steps will be taken.

- If it is determined after an evaluation that your child should go home, you will need to arrange to pick up your child as quickly as possible. REMINDER: Emergency contact information must be current.
- If the illness or injury requires immediate emergency medical attention, the Health Office and school Administrator will immediately take action while support staff contacts a parent/guardian.
- Any illness or injury necessitating a restriction of activity (PE/Sports or recess), will require a note by a medical provider. If there is not a clearance date on the restriction note, an additional note from the provider must be submitted to the health office before the student is allowed to participate again in PE, sports or recess.
- A student will not be permitted to try out for, or return to a school-related sport, until the health office has medical clearance from the treating provider on file.

### **WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME WITH ILLNESS IN COVID TIMES**

It can be hard to know when to send children to school, if they tell you that they do not feel well. Usually, the best place for your child is in school. There are some times when keeping your child home to rest or call for an appointment with your health care provider is recommended.

**COVID-19 related symptoms that will require a medical evaluation and COVID-19 testing, even if your child is experiencing just one of the following symptoms:**

- Fever greater than 100.0 and/or chills
- Cough that is persistent
- Shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea

This list does not include all possible COVID-19 symptoms. Children and adolescents with the virus that causes COVID-19 may experience any, all, or none of these symptoms.

If your child has a fever, please do not give medicine such as Tylenol or Advil and send them to school. Should the fever return when the medicine wears off, you will be called to pick-up your child.

**Please keep your child home until fever free for 24 hours (less than 100.0 without the use of medicine), improvement in symptoms, and if prescribed by your healthcare provider, your child has received the appropriate treatment.**

## **TESTING REQUIREMENTS:**

**Testing:** All students will need to provide a negative COVID-19 test after any illness with symptoms suggestive of a COVID-19 infection. The IUFSD is only accepting **NAAT** tests, for example: PCR or rapid molecular tests. At this time the District is not accepting rapid antigen tests.

Remind children to wash hands often with soap and water, throw away used tissues, cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze, and keep their hands away from their face. These measures will help keep everyone healthier. Please call us with any concerns or questions.