

IRVINGTON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Dows Lane Elementary 914-269-5150, fax 914-591-6863	Main Street School 914-269-5250, fax 914-591-3099	Middle School 914-269-5350, fax 914-591-2643	High School 914-269-5450, fax 914-591-1956
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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the Health Services Department of the Irvington Union Free School District. Each of our schools has a Health Office that is staffed by a Registered Professional Nurse (RN). Our dedicated healthcare professionals are rooted in the belief that healthy students are better learners. Our school nurses protect and promote student health and wellness on a daily basis. They enhance the educational process by modifying or removing health-related barriers that allow all students to achieve their individual academic potential. Through this ongoing commitment, and in collaboration with families and community, our students become effective self-advocates, critical thinkers and partners in wellness.

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
- 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: measles, 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.

Please contact the nurse for additional information.

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:

A completed Medication Administration Form must be submitted to the health office each school year for a child who requires medication during the school day or during school related activities. **This includes all prescription and over-the-counter medications**, regardless of form (oral, nasal, topical, etc.). **ALL medications** must be provided in their original labeled containers.

NYS Education Law prohibits children from carrying medication at school with the following exception: When a healthcare provider gives **written** consent that the ordered medication(s) requires rapid administration and attests the student can self-carry and self-administer effectively. Parent/guardian **written** permission is also required. Controlled substances are NOT eligible for self-administration under any circumstance. Schools may revoke the self-carry/ self-administer privilege if the student proves to be irresponsible or incapable. Please contact your school nurse for additional information and requirements.

At the end of the school year, a notice is sent to the parent/guardian to pick up any remaining medication. As per NYS mandates, medication that is not picked up by the designated date will be properly discarded.

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:

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.

A medical evaluation is advised for the following symptoms:

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| ★ Fever (100.4F) and/or chills | ★ Certain illnesses and rashes. (ie Chickenpox, measles, hand, foot and mouth disease, and skin lesions) |
| ★ Cough that is persistent and disruptive | ★ Unexplained fatigue or muscle/body aches |
| ★ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | ★ New onset or severe headache |
| ★ Nasal congestion or very runny nose | ★ New loss of taste or smell |
| ★ Severe sore throat | |
| ★ Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea | |
| ★ Yellow or green drainage from eye(s) | |

Please keep your child home until fever free for 24 hours, (without the use of medicine such as Tylenol or Advil), symptoms have improved, and if appropriate as directed by your healthcare provider.

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 the Health Office with any concerns or questions.

Wishing you a healthy school year,