

2-8 THE SCHOOL NURSE

School nurses are available, or are on call, at all District schools. Their primary responsibility is to promote student health and safety and to maintain student health records. If a student becomes ill or injured at school when the nurse is not present, the Principal or their administrative designee will provide care.

2-9 EMERGENCY CARE PLANS

Parents/guardians of students with life-threatening conditions, such as asthma, seizures, or severe allergies, are encouraged to establish and file emergency action plans with the school. Parents should always communicate serious medical conditions to the school nurse before the first day of school and when the condition develops.

2-10 WHERE TO GET MEDICAL FORMS

Copies of medical forms may be obtained from the school nurse or local healthcare providers and are found in the back of this book and online at www.district87.org under "Family Resources" then "Useful Forms." Copies of Board of Education Policy 7.100, Student Physical Examination and Immunization Requirements are available in each school's office or online at www.district87.org, under "School Board" then "School Board Policies."

2-11 ADMINISTERING STUDENT MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

It is the policy of District 87 that as a regular and normal practice, medicine should not be administered to a student at school or when the student is involved in school activities. However, under certain circumstances, medicine may be administered during school hours by the school nurse or other designated school personnel. These rules apply to both prescription and any over-the-counter medication, including Tylenol, Ibuprofen, cough drops and Chapstick. Ask the school nurse if you have any questions. A medication authorization form must be completed by the parent and licensed physician and filed with the nurse along with the medication in its original container with the correct label. This form is available in the nurse's office, in most local doctors' offices, at the back of this handbook and on-line at www.district87.org, under "Family Resources" then "Useful Forms."

Additional information about the Board of Education Policy #7.270, Administering Student Medicine, can be obtained from the school nurse or online at www.district87.org, under "School Board" then "Board Policies." Students cannot self-administer medications at school except in the two very limited circumstances addressed below.

2-12 SELF-ADMINISTER EPI-PEN AND ASTHMA MEDICATION

Students with asthma and the potential for allergic anaphylactic reactions are allowed to carry and self-administer prescribed medications pursuant to the following:

- Asthma and epi-pen medications must be prescribed by a healthcare provider, healthcare provider assistant, or nurse practitioner that has prescribing privileges.

- Self-administration means a students' discretionary use of his or her prescribed asthma medications.

- The parent/guardian has provided written permission for the student to self-administer asthma medication along with

the original asthma prescription which must include the following information:

name and purpose of medication;

the prescribed dosage; and

the time or times at which, or the special circumstances under which, the medication is to be administered.

- The healthcare provider has provided a written Medical Authorization form for the student to self-administer the epi-pen medication along with the original epi-pen prescription which must include the following

information: name and purpose of medication; the prescribed dosage; and the time or times at which, or the special circumstances under which, the medication is to be administered.

- The above information shall be kept on file with the school nurse and/or administrator.
 - The school is not held liable for students who self-administer asthma or epi-pen medications unless school personnel prevent the student from obtaining and self-administering medication.
 - The written permission forms from parents and healthcare providers are effective for the school year and shall be renewed each subsequent school year.
 - These provisions pertain to students while they are in school, at a school-sponsored activity, while under the supervision of school personnel, and before-school or after-school care on school-operated property.
- If you have any further questions about the Asthma Medication Law, please contact the American Lung Association at 1-800- LUNG-USA.

2-13 TRANSFER/NEW STUDENTS

Students transferring to District 87 schools from another Illinois school must meet all health and immunization requirements. Students new to District 87 elementary schools from another school district may transfer their health records. Transfer students are required to have an Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Student Transfer Form. If the records of a transfer student are not received within 30 days of the request for such records, parents will be informed and an additional ten (10) school days will be allowed to show proof of meeting physical examination and immunization requirements. If proof of meeting such requirements is not provided within the above time frames, the transfer student will be excluded from school until proof is presented to school authorities. The school nurse can review a student's exam and immunization records and compare them to the state requirements outlined in the table below.

2-14 IMMUNIZATION AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

All Illinois students are required to show proof of having met the physical examination and immunization requirements prescribed by the state and illustrated in the Table below.

Children at all grade levels can register without the required health examination and immunizations documentation. However, unless an exemption applies, failure to provide this required documentation by the first day of attendance of the current school year will result in the student's exclusion from school until the required health forms are presented to the District.

DISTRICT 87 STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO START SCHOOL WITHOUT THE REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS and PHYSICAL EXAM. Students transferring from another school district should transfer their health records. If these records are not received within thirty (30) days of the request for such records, parents will be allowed an additional ten (10) days to show proof of meeting the health examination and immunization requirements. After that, the student will be excluded from school until proof of meeting the requirements is given to school authorities.

Health examination forms can be obtained from the school nurse or local physician. Students and parents with questions on the health examination and immunization requirements should contact the school nurse. Parents who object to the health examination and immunization requirements on religious grounds shall provide school authorities a signed statement of such objection on a form available from the school nurse. This form is required to be renewed in grades K, 2, 5, 6 and 9.

The dates of required immunizations must be verified by your healthcare provider (physician, health department, clinic, etc.). Please note that some of the immunizations are completed in a series of shots that may require several months to complete. For instance, the three Hepatitis B shots may require up to twelve (12) months to complete. It is important not to wait until the last minute to schedule an appointment with your healthcare provider.

2-15 SPECIAL DIETS Students requiring an individual or modified diet from the school cafeteria for a medical reason must file an annual Food Substitution form signed by a licensed physician and must file a Food Substitution form with the school nurse. Parents/guardians can obtain the Food Substitution form from the school nurse. The school nurse will notify the District's Food Service office of the need for a special diet and forward that office a copy of the Food Substitution form. Information about product allergens is obtained solely from vendors and manufacturers of the product. The District does not warrant or guarantee the information provided by vendors and manufacturers or that foods are free of allergens.

2-16 VISION AND HEARING SCREENINGS Free vision and hearing screenings are conducted at state-mandated grade levels. Hearing screenings are not required if parents request their child be excluded in writing. Vision screenings are not required if an eye examination signed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist within the last 12 months is on file with the school. Vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Parents will be notified if the screenings indicate a student should receive a more extensive examination by a physician.

2-17 HEAD LICE Students diagnosed with live head lice do not need to be sent home early from school; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should kill crawling lice. Head lice can be a nuisance but they have not been shown to spread disease. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice. Both the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) advocate that "no-nit" policies should be discontinued. "No-nit" policies that require a child to be free of nits before they can return to schools should be discontinued for the following reasons: • Many nits are more than ¼ inch from the scalp. Such nits are usually not viable and very unlikely to hatch to become crawling lice, or may in fact be empty shells, also known as 'casings'. • Nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people. • The burden of unnecessary absenteeism to the students, families and communities far outweighs the risks associated with head lice. • Misdiagnosis of nits is very common during nit checks conducted by nonmedical personnel. Consult the school nurse if you have questions regarding diagnosis and treatment.

2-18 ILLNESSES It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to keep children home when they are sick. Children with the following conditions should not be in school: • A fever within the last 24 hours of 100° F or higher. The child must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen before returning to school. • Vomiting within the last 24 hours • Diarrhea within the last 24 hours • A frequent and disruptive cough • Any contagious illness such as "strep throat" that requires antibiotics. Once a student has been fever free without the use of fever reducing medications and on antibiotics for at least 24 hours, he/she may return to school. • Any undiagnosed skin rash. A student with a rash may attend school upon presenting a physician's note stating the rash is not contagious. • Excessive tiredness or fatigue that interferes with participation in learning activities. If the school nurse in conjunction with the principal decides the student is not in condition to stay at school, the parent will be contacted and will be expected to make immediate arrangements to have the child picked up at school. Children must remain out of school for 24 hours after fever, diarrhea or vomiting.

2-19 STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE Bloomington Public Schools, District 87 does not carry medical, dental or other insurance for students injured in accidents on school premises. Parents are responsible for the costs of such accidents and any student insurance coverage. Because so many students have accidents at school, it is highly recommended that parents purchase their own insurance coverage. As a convenience for parents, District 87 annually designates an optional student accident insurance plan that parents can purchase. Information and forms for this coverage are available at the time of school registration. While District 87 takes care to select a reliable insurance company, the District does not endorse the plan or recommend it instead of

other insurance plans. The contract is solely between parents and the company, and District 87 has no financial or legal responsibility for the plan or contract. 12 2-20 GUIDANCE AND PUPIL SERVICES Any student who wants to see a counselor may go to the Guidance Office between periods o