

## A Parent's Guide to the Lowell Health Department School Health Unit

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The School Nurse is a liaison between home and school regarding health concerns and to serve as a health resource to you and your child. The School Nurse completes state mandated screenings and provides nursing care for illnesses or accidents. The School Nurse promotes wellness, and assists in maintaining a healthy, safe environment for students and staff. Please contact your School Nurse with any health concerns or questions.

### Medical Emergency Form:

A Medical Emergency Form must be completed and returned to the School Nurse. This form gives information on how to reach parents in case of emergency and provides updated health information on your child from year to year. Notify the School Nurse of any changes in emergency contact information or state of health during the school year. In the event of the need for medical transport, every attempt will be made to send a copy of this form. **Remember, in the event of an accident or illness, the school must be able to reach the parent or another person who will assume responsibility for the student.**

### Health Emergencies:

Please notify the School Nurse of any medical condition which may precipitate an emergency situation for your child (e.g. allergic reaction to food, insect bites or medication, asthma, diabetes, seizures). The School Nurse will work with you in developing a care plan to meet your child's health care needs.

### Illness:

Children **must remain home** if they have any of the following:

- A contagious illness like chickenpox, flu, or strep throat, until the doctor or public health department official says it is safe to return or the child has been on antibiotics for 24 hours.
- A rash or skin condition not diagnosed by a doctor
- A fever that causes chills, sweating or muscle aches
- Temperature over 100.4 in the past 24 hours
- Vomiting / diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- Live head lice
- Notification by the school nurse/ health department that immunizations are not up to date. (Exclusion notice)

### Post Illness School Attendance Guidelines:

Children must be fever free without medication and symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. According to health department guidelines, a child with a diagnosis of strep throat, impetigo or conjunctivitis, is required to be on medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

### Immunization/Lab Test Requirements:

School Immunization Law, Chapter 76, Section 15 of the General Laws of the State of Massachusetts requires that all immunizations must be up to date for children to attend school according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations. Massachusetts General Law allows for the school district to exclude any child from school whose immunizations are not up to date.

**\*\*New in 2017: Polio #4 must be given after the 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday\*\***

- A certified record of immunization from your child's physician is required for entry into school
- All immunization records must be provided in English and include all dates in full.
- Immunizations are reviewed by the School Nurse. In the event of missing or incorrect information, your prompt attention in addressing the error/omission is imperative to assure compliance with state law.
- **Preschool Entry Requirements:**  
4 Dtap/DTP, 3 Polio, 3 Hepatitis B, 1 MMR, 4 doses Hib, 1 dose Varicella or physician documented case of chickenpox, 1 lead test
- **Kindergarten Entry Requirements:**  
5 Dtap/DTP, 4 Polio, 3 Hepatitis B, 2 MMR, 2 Varicella or physician documented case of chickenpox, 1 lead Test