

# NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

## Immunizations:

Iowa law **requires** that every child entering school must have a completed immunization record on file at the school by the **first day** of school. If immunizations are in process, the child is enrolled in school on a provisional status, that allows 60 days for completion. At the end of the 60 days, students will not be allowed to attend school until immunizations have been completed. All immunization records are audited by the Van Buren County Health Department.

**\*Please ask your child's Doctor if they are in need of vaccines for school.\***

## Vision Screening:

Iowa law requires all kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to complete a vision screening. Screening must be done no earlier than one year prior to the first day of school and no later than 6 months after the first day of school.

Please have the screener complete the Vision Screening Form, and kindergarten also needs the green Student Vision Card. Return forms to the school.

\* A vision screening may be conducted by your doctor, advanced nurse practitioner, physician assistant, eye doctor, local public health department, public or accredited nonpublic school, community based organization, free clinic, or child care center.

## Dental Screening:

Iowa law requires all incoming kindergarten and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to have proof of a dental exam completed prior to the first day of school. A dental certificate will need to be completed and signed by your Dental Provider. A healthy mouth and teeth are important to keep the body healthy, smile, learn without pain, and eat. Call Rachael N. Patterson-Rahn, RDH, I-Smile Oral Health Coordinator at (319)372-5225, ext. 140 or (800)458-6672 to help find a dentist.

## Medication Administration Procedure:

Signed parental permission is required for all prescription and non-prescription medications to be given at school. Medications are administered by the school nurse or staff members who have completed a medication administration course. All medication brought to school must be in the **original container** with all of the information current to what the child receives. Antibiotics prescribed three times a day should be given at home. All medication must be brought to/from school by a responsible adult, not transported by student. Tylenol & Ibuprofen must be provided by each family for school use.

The "Medication Administration Permission" form is available in the Student Handbook or on the school website at [www.van-buren.k12.ia.us/](http://www.van-buren.k12.ia.us/).

## Health Concerns:

It is important to inform the school of any health concerns regarding your child that may affect school performance. Examples of health concerns are: Asthma,

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ADD/ADHD, Allergies (Including food allergies), Diabetes, Seizures, Headaches.

## **Food Allergies:**

If your child has a known food allergy, please make certain to notify the school nurse. Special forms will need to be completed and signed by your child's health care provider.

## **Communicable Diseases:**

It is important to inform the school of any communicable diseases that your child has contracted. Examples would be chicken pox, impetigo, strep throat, fifth disease, pinkeye, ringworm, and mono.

## **When to keep your child home from school:**

- ☐ Vomiting and or diarrhea within the past 24 hours.
- ☐ Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher-*Keep your child home until his or her fever has been gone for 24 hours without medication.*
- ☐ Undiagnosed rash (Health care provider will need to diagnose)
- ☐ Has symptoms that prevent your child from participating in school, such as:
  - Excessive tiredness or lack of appetite
  - Productive coughing, sneezing
  - Headache, body aches, earache
  - Sore throat.

*A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be strep throat even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat in children are headache and stomach upset. Contact your doctor as your child needs a special test to determine if it is strep throat.*

## **Head Lice:**

Head lice can be a common occurrence in school age children. We suggest you check your child on a regular basis with close visual examination under good lighting. Examine the hair and scalp, especially around the ears and at the nape of the neck. The lice are small, only about 1/16 of an inch long. They are grayish-white with dark edges. While they cannot fly and do not jump, they move quickly. More evident may be the lice eggs--known as "nits", which are fastened to the hair shaft. Nits are teardrop in shape and also very small, only about 1/32 of an inch. They are "glued" to the hair and cannot be washed or brushed out like dandruff. Getting rid of head lice and nits is a matter of washing the hair with a lice killing product, following the directions that come with the product closely, and then attempting to remove the nits. For more information go to:

[www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/).

Please contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns.

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