

## Middleborough Public Schools Health Services

The return to school is an exciting time for students and families. In addition to school supply lists and preparatory visits, parents often request assurance that their child's health needs will be met while at school. We are fortunate in Middleborough to have a certified school nurse in all our schools.

School nurses are key clinical health providers in the school setting. It is important for parents/guardians to learn to know their child's school nurse and to maintain ongoing communication regarding their child's health considerations. Middleborough Public Schools complies with both state and local school health policies. For information on our policies, along with downloadable forms, please visit our website at [www.middleboro.k12.ma.us](http://www.middleboro.k12.ma.us) under Health Services or contact your school nurse with any questions or concerns.

The following is a brief summary of health information that will assist families in preparing for the return to school:

**Physicals and immunizations:** Physicals are required for entry into PreK/Kindergarten and are recommended in grades 4, 7, and 9 (105 CMR 200.000). Physicals are required annually for all students who participate in sports according to MIAA regulations. School health records are reviewed annually by the school nurse and students are required to comply with immunization regulations (105 CMR 220.000) prior to entry.

**Medication Policies:** Middleborough Public Schools complies with the Department of Public Health regulations regarding The Administration of Prescriptions Medication in Public and Private School (105 CMR 210.000). All medications administered at school (both over-the-counter and prescription) must have a current signed medication order from a physician, a signed consent form by the parent/guardian, and the medication must be brought to the school nurse in a pharmacy or manufacturer-labeled container by a parent/guardian or designated adult. **Students are not allowed to transport or carry medications to school unless an emergency care plan has been initiated stating approval.**

**Mandatory Screenings:** School Nurses are required to complete mandatory screenings according to Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations. Below is the schedule of the anticipated screenings. Screenings are generally done by the school nurse in the fall of each school year. If you would like to exclude your child from state mandated screenings, please submit the request in writing to your school nurse.

- Vision screening: grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 9
- Stereopsis screening: grades 1, 2, 3
- Hearing screening: grades K, 1, 2, 3, 7, and 9
- Postural screening: grades 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9
- BMI screening: grades 1, 4, 7, 10
- SBIRT screening for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade student only

### **General Information:**

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

- Fever of 100 degrees or more (should be fever free for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or Motrin before returning to school)
- Vomiting or diarrhea (may return to school once symptom free for 24 hours and able to eat and drink normally)
- Rash or skin condition not diagnosed and cleared by a physician
- Contagious illness such as chicken pox or the flu. Must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school and follow CDC/DPH guidelines.
- Bacterial infections such as strep throat, conjunctivitis, or pneumonia must be on antibiotics for a minimum of 24 hours and feel well enough to return to school.
- All students with head lice must be treated appropriately have nits combed out, and be checked by the school nurse prior to returning to school. Parents must accompany their child to the school nurse upon returning to school.

**When to contact your school nurse:** It is important to keep your school nurse informed of any changes in health status such as a new diagnosis, changes in medications, injuries, or any concern that may affect your child during the school day that may precipitate a visit to the nurse.

**When to contact the bus company:** Student health information is **not** shared with the bus company due to privacy laws, therefore, if your child has a medical condition (diabetes, life-threatening allergy, asthma, etc.) that you feel is important for the bus driver to know it is your responsibility to notify the bus company annually. You can reach them at 508-923-0990.