

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The focus of the Davenport Community Schools Health Services Program is to promote the highest level of health for the school-age child through preventative services such as health education and counseling, health screenings and assessments, and provider referrals. Our program is based on the knowledge that a healthy body, healthy mind and healthy living habits are essential in achieving educational potential. Kindergarten is an important milestone, and we wanted to share some health information specific to your student. We strongly encourage that Kindergarten students receive a physical before school starts, but there are also some required documents/screenings that you should know about.

Required Documents and Screenings for Kindergartners: to be brought to the **Health Office** at school

- *Up-to-date Immunization Records* - Students are required **by state law** to have up to date immunization records on the Iowa Department of Public Health Certificate of Immunization at the time of registration. Contact your Physician's Office for an updated vaccination record to verify that your child has the immunizations needed to start school or if he/she needs any follow-up shots.
- *Confirmation of Blood Lead Testing* -The Lead Law (House file 158), signed April 17, 2008 requires evidence of a blood lead test when children enter school before the age of 6 and provide it to the elementary school where the child is enrolling. In 2013, the State redefined the requirement to "confirmation" of the testing rather than "proof" of the testing. You may obtain this confirmation paperwork from your physician's office.
- *Proof of Dental Screening* - **State law** requires children enrolling in kindergarten to have a dental screen. Parents or guardians of Kindergarten students will be required to provide evidence of a dental screening on an Iowa Department of Public Health Dental Screening Certificate. The dental screening must be completed no earlier than age three and no later than 4 months after the first day of school by a dentist, dental hygienist, physician, nurse or physician's assistant. If you do not have a dentist or dental insurance, your school nurse can assist you with referral to the appropriate resources.
- *Vision Screening* - State law requires a vision screening for Kindergarten and 3rd grade. Vision screenings are strongly encouraged prior to registration but are required by the start of school. Ask your school for the Vision Card. It is strongly encouraged that the eye examination be completed by a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist.
- *Hearing Screenings* - are done by the Area Education Agency (AEA) IX Audiologist for students in Kindergarten.

A staff of professional nurses and other authorized practitioners in the Health Services Department provide health screenings for students in selected grades during the school year. Parents and teachers may also request that a vision or hearing screening be done whenever a problem is suspected. We are pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding any of the screening programs. If you do not want your child to participate in any screening program, please notify your school nurse by phone or letter.

Health Conditions:

If your child has been diagnosed with a health condition, such as but not limited to, diabetes, seizures, heart condition, asthma, allergies to food or other things, migraine headaches, or other illnesses or diseases, please complete the Medical History section on the enrollment form and complete a Critical Care Card for bussing. (Bussing information is needed for field trips even if your child walks to school) Also, please call or visit the school nurse as soon as possible so that a plan for safe care at school can be started. Physician documentation of conditions is needed to confirm the diagnosis. Consent for release of information from physicians will also need to be signed. Please provide the school nurse with a note from a medical doctor's office regarding any medical condition that may require some type of accommodation. If your child has any kind of food allergy that will need an accommodation, it must be diagnosed as a disability. Please have the doctor complete a Diet Modification form that you can obtain from the school nurse.

Medication Guidelines:

The District understands that some students may need prescription and nonprescription medication to participate in their educational program. Nonprescription medication requested by a parent or guardian (hereafter “parent”) may be administered when the registered nurse determines that the use of over-the-counter medication is the appropriate care for the student.

Nonprescription medication shall be administered when the student and parent provides:

1. A completed Medication Over-The-Counter Administration Consent, signed and dated by the parent requesting medication administration
2. The medication is in the **original, labeled container**, either as dispensed or in the manufacturer’s container

Prescription medication shall be administered when the student’s parent provides:

1. A signed and dated written statement by the parent or guardian requesting medication administration
2. The medication is in the original, labeled container, either as dispensed or in the manufacturer’s container
3. A written order signed by the attending physician

When administration of the medication requires ongoing professional assessment and monitoring due to the serious nature of the illness or medication side effects, an Individual Health Care Plan may need to be developed by licensed health personnel with the student and the student’s parent. By law, students with asthma or other airway constricting diseases may self-administer their medication upon written consent of the parents and the prescribing physician regardless of competency. If you and your physician feel your student needs to carry their own asthma inhaler or epi-pen with them during school hours, the physician must sign this order sheet to do so. The written statement by the parent and prescribing physician requesting student self-administration or to carry shall be kept on file in the nurse’s office.

Additional Forms and Information:

Below is a list of additional forms available upon request:

- Certificate of Immunization Exemption/Medical or Religious
- Diet Modification Form for Students with Special Dietary Needs (This form is completed by a physician. It is for students with food allergies or food texture modifications.)
- Medication Administration Consent Form (This form is completed by a physician for meds that have to be taken at school.)
- Medication for Over-The –Counter Medication Administration Consent Form
- Certificate of Blood Lead Testing Exemption for Religious Reasons.
- Critical Care Cards for Health Conditions and Epi-pen waivers for transportation. (Bussing)

Some families may also qualify for *Hawk-I*, a state program which offers low-cost or no-cost health and dental insurance for children in families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid, but too low to afford private family coverage. Applications are available upon request at the school or contact Care for Kids at Scott County Health Department at (563) 328-4114 for more information.

Finally, as we all know the first day of school is an important event in a child’s life. Good health enables children to succeed in school from the very start. Healthy eating, rest and exercise are very important so your child will be ready to do well at school. Providing your child with a healthy breakfast each morning will not only strengthen his learning but also helps your child to develop good health habits early in life. Proper sleep and physical activity are important elements of a healthy lifestyle even for our youngest students.

As always, please consider your school nurse as an important partner and resource in your child’s health and education. Please contact the school nurse with questions regarding any of the content of this note or any other health supports your child may need. We look forward to working with you to assure your child’s Kindergarten year is a great one!

Davenport Community Schools Nurses and Health Services Team