

## Health services Protocol

### School Nurse Services:

School Nurse services are provided throughout the school year. The school nurse provides health care in the nurse's office located in the administration building, for acute illnesses/injuries occurring in school. The school nurse is not licensed to diagnose illness or injury, If you have a medical concern regarding your child, contact the child's health care provider directly.

Throughout the year all students are required by the Department of Health to have their height and weight checked. Pennsylvania requires all students to have their Body Mass Index (BMI) calculated. BMI is a screening tool used to determine whether a child is normal , over or under weight. This screening will take place early in the year. You will receive a letter with the results to be shared with your healthcare provider.

Hearing screening will be completed in grades K-4,7 and 11.

Vision screening is completed in grade K-12

Scoliosis screening is completed in grades 6 and 7.

The school nurse will maintain your child's health record and notify parents/guardians if there are any documents needed.

The school nurse will maintain a record of your child immunizations and notify you if your child does not meet the Department of Health requirements. If your child is not compliant with the immunization requirements , the school nurse will assist you in creating a plan to have your child's immunizations meet the requirements for attending school.

Any student that becomes ill or is injured during the course of the school day should report to the health room with a signed pass from the teacher. The student will be assessed and treated as necessary. If the school nurse feels that it is necessary to send the student home the parent will be called and make arrangements for the student to be transported home. If the school nurse is unable to reach the parent the emergency contact will be notified. If the school nurse feels that the injury requires emergency treatment the parent/guardian will be notified and EMS will be called.

### Health Office / School nurse sick student protocol

If your child presents to the school nurse with the following symptoms the parent/guardian will be contacted to transport the child home:

A temperature of 100 degrees or greater

Vomiting

Communicable diseases such as pink eye, chicken pox, measles, mumps, impetigo, ringworm, etc.

Diarrhea

Head lice

Allergic reaction

Severe injuries

Any medical condition that requires further attention

Possible concussion with symptoms

Severe asthma attacks

Severe sore throat with fever

Diabetic reactions

Seizures ( parent will be notified and make decision with collaboration of nurse and parent/guardian)

Rash with persistent itching

Severe Persistent coughing

In any situation that the school nurse deems it necessary to send the student home

If your child presents to the school nurse with the following symptoms the parent/guardian will not be contacted and the child will be returned to class:

Minor playground injuries requiring no more than a bandaid such as scrapes, scratches

Band-aid applications or changes

Temperature of less than 100 degrees with no other symptoms

Headache with no additional symptoms

Upset stomach with no additional symptoms

Menstrual cramps

Splinter removal

The school nurse will contact parents/guardians by phone, note or both if your child has an injury that may require monitoring or follow-up by your healthcare provider.

### **Medication Administration**

Whenever possible medication should be administered before and after school hours. If a medication is to be given three(3) times a day the recommended schedule of administration should be, before school, after school and at bedtime.

Prescription and over the counter medication will only be administered during school hours if the parent/guardian provides the following. These must be completed prior to medication administration:

A written order from a physician for the prescribed medication and/or over the counter medication.

A completed medication consent form, signed by parent/guardian and health care provider.

The medication must be in its original , unopened container properly labeled with the student's name, medication name , dosage, route and frequency to be given.

A parent/guardian or designated adult must bring the medication to the health office to be signed in by the school nurse.

All medication is to be maintained in the school nurse office. Medications will be administered by authorized personnel only. Parents/Guardians are responsible to notify the school nurse for any changes or discontinuation of medications.

No student is to carry medication of any kind , prescription or over the counter, to school with them, except students that have had the appropriate forms completed and signed to self carry emergency medications.

Self-Carry Medications:

Prior to allowing students to self carry medications , the student must demonstrate the following and the parent/guardian must provide the following:

An order from a licensed prescriber for the medication, including a statement that it is necessary for the student to carry the medication and the the student is capable of administering the medication.

A completed authorization for self-carry by students emergency medications form.

The student shall demonstrate administration skills and responsible behavior to the nurse.

The student shall tell the nurse if the medication is used.

Emergency medications include epinephrine (EPI-PENS), Asthma inhalers and glucagon

### **Immunization requirements**

On the first day of school , unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had at least one dose of the following vaccines or risk exclusion:

For attendance in all grades children will need the following:

4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday)

4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose)

2 doses of measles, rubella and mumps

3 doses of hepatitis B

2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or evidence of immunity

For attendance in 7th grade:

1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis on the first day of 7th grade (tdap)

1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine on the first day of 7th grade (MCV)

For attendance in 12th grade:

1 dose of MCV on the first day of 12th grade. *one dose has been given at 16* ~~is~~ one dose is given, at 16 years of age or older, that shall count as the 12th grade dose.

If a child does not have all the doses listed above, needs additional doses and the next dose is not medically appropriate, the child must provide a medical plan within the first week of school or risk exclusion.

The school nurse's role is to support student learning. The nurse accomplishes this by implementing strategies that promote student and staff health and safety. The nurse plays an integral role in the following programs:

Health education

Healthy environment

Nutritional services

Physical education/activity

Counseling/mental health

Staff wellness

To assist in the health of your child please be sure to check the following:  
Check your child every day before school to see if he/she is feeling well.

If your child has a fever, is vomiting, <sup>and OR</sup> has diarrhea please keep him/her home for 24 hrs.

Encourage your child to report symptoms of not feeling well to teachers or to report to the nurse's office

Be sure to provide your child with adequate amounts of fresh air, sleep and a well balanced diet

Teach your child to cover his/her mouth if coughing and to use hand sanitizer after he/she sneezes or coughs

Teach your child to wash their hands, after using the restroom, before meals and if they are soiled.

Be sure that your child is properly dressed for the weather. At GCS our students go outside regardless of the various conditions. Students should plan school and PE uniforms accordingly.

Although the primary responsibility rests on the parent/guardian for the health of the child , the school nurse is here to assist you and your child. For any health related questions or concerns please feel free to contact the school nurse.