



**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE
BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS
School Health Services**

August 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. Our School Health Services department recognizes the link between health and wellbeing and academic success. We are committed to promoting health and wellness for all of our students through a comprehensive school health program. This requires that school nurses obtain updated health information on our students and that we adhere to the requirements set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

- Massachusetts State Law mandates that each student meet the State immunization requirements before entry to school. A translated immunization record is required.
- Parents of new students must register at the Office of Students Affairs, provide an updated (within the past 12 months) physical by a US physician, along with completed immunizations.
- Before entry to kindergarten, you must submit completed immunizations and a recent physical exam which includes a lead level and results of vision screening.
- Students entering **grades 4, 7 and 10** must provide documentation of a recent physical (within 13 months). Immunization records are reviewed by the nurse at these intervals. Please check with your PCP to be sure that your child has received the required boosters. Please note that students entering 7th grade have additional immunization requirements. (Tdap and Menigococcol).
- Brookline High School athletes who participate in interscholastic sports are required to have yearly physicals per MIAA regulations.

Please contact your school nurse if your child has any new health concerns (such as allergies, asthma, seizures, diabetes), any emotional issues (such as recent loss or hospitalization), special needs, required procedures or a history of a recent illness or injury. This will inform your school nurse of any restrictions or accommodations that your child may require. All information will be kept confidential and shared with individual staff members on a need to know basis only.

PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE DAILY OR EMERGENCY MEDICATION IN SCHOOL MUST MEET WITH THE SCHOOL NURSE TO INITIATE OR RENEW THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION AT SCHOOL. New medication orders are required every academic year. Medications should be brought directly to the school nurse by the parent, guardian or adult caregiver.

All parents/guardians must complete and return the Health and Medical Emergency Contact Information. Please be sure to complete both sides of this card and return it promptly. This is vital information for the school nurses to have. Please be sure to update contact information and new health information as necessary throughout the year. If you are in need of health insurance for your child, your school nurse will be able to assist you.

Throughout the school year, the school nurses will be administering and supervising several State mandated programs including hearing, vision, and scoliosis screening, and height/weight/BMI measurement. Scoliosis and BMI measurement will be completed with the support of the physical education staff. We also work collaboratively with supervised Emerson College students.

We value your support and partnership in ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment for your child. Please contact your school nurse with any questions or concerns. For more information about Health Services, Policies, Forms, Health Care Plans or Wellness Updates, go to www.brookline.k12.ma.us/healthservices/.

Sincerely,

Tricia Laham MEd, BSN, RN, NCSN

Coordinator of School Health Services

L. Erik Von-Hahn MD

School Physician Consultant