



**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE**  
**School Health Services**  
**617-713-5127**

September 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year. Brookline School Health Services recognizes the link between student health and academic success, and we are committed to promoting the health and wellness of all of our students through a comprehensive school health program. This requires that our school nurses obtain updated health information for every student and that we adhere to the requirements set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

**Please take a moment to carefully review both sides of the enclosed *Health and Medical Emergency Card*** (light blue card). Please make any corrections, sign the back, and return the card to your child's homeroom teacher promptly. If any of this information changes throughout the course of the school year, please inform your school nurse.

If you need assistance in securing health insurance for your child, please contact your school nurse.

***Daily or Emergency Medication:***

If your child will need to receive daily or emergency medication in school, ***you must meet with the school nurse*** to initiate or renew the documentation for the administration of medication at school. New medication orders are required every academic year. Medications should be delivered directly to the school by the parent, guardian or caregiver.

***New Families:***

If you are a new family, and you did not already submit a student health record and immunization report for your child, please submit those documents to your school nurse without delay. Massachusetts law mandates that each student meet state immunization requirements before entry to school. If your child is a new kindergarten student, the physical exam report must include the result of lead level tests and vision screening.

***Students in Grade 4, 7 or 10:***

If your child is a 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grader, you must submit documentation of a recent physical examination (conducted within the last 13 months). The immunization records on these reports will be examined by the school nurse. Please check with your child's Primary Care Provider (PCP) to be sure that your child has received the required booster immunizations. **Note that students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade have additional requirements**, including Tdap and Meningococcal immunizations.

***Brookline High School Students:***

If your child participates in high school interscholastic sports, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) requires that they have **yearly physical examinations**. Please submit these reports to the nurse in the BHS Health Clinic.

***Contact Information for School Nurse Staff:***

Please look on the back of this letter for a list of our school nurses. Please contact your school nurse if your child has any health concerns (such as allergies, asthma, seizures, or diabetes), any emotional issues (such as recent loss or hospitalization), special needs, required procedures or a history of a recent illness or injury. We encourage you to regularly communicate with your school nurse to keep her informed of any changes, or 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.

Throughout the school year, our 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. Your support and partnership will help ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for your child. For more information about health services, policies, forms, health care plans or wellness updates, please visit:

[www.brookline.k12.ma.us/healthservices](http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/healthservices)

Sincerely,

Tricia Laham RN, BSN, MEd, NCSN  
Coordinator of School Health Services

L. Erik Von-Hahn MD  
School Physician Consultant