

MEDICATION POLICIES

If it is possible to achieve the medical regimen at home, medications (both prescription and over-the-counter) should not be taken during school hours. For example, medication to be taken three times a day can be given before school, after school and at bedtime.

If medications must be taken during the school day, please contact the school nurse or visit the SMS web site for the appropriate forms.

A PHYSICIAN'S ORDER IS REQUIRED EVERY SCHOOL YEAR FOR ALL PRESCRIPTION AND NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS.

To insure your child's safety, all medications are to be delivered to school:

- In a pharmacy/manufacturer's container. If a prescription, ask the pharmacy to provide separate bottles for school/home.
- By the parent/guardian or designated adult, **never with the child.** Please bring to health office or you may leave with our receptionist, Mrs. Donahue, if all information on both forms is complete.

*****Please note, no medications will be administered that arrive in plastic bags or envelopes.**

*****No noontime medications are given on curriculum days unless specified by parent otherwise.**

LONG TERM MEDICATIONS

Medications which must be taken during the school hours, on a long term basis, require the following forms to be on file in the school health office before any medication can be administered at school:

- A signed and completed Parent/Guardian Consent and Medication Administration Plan
- A Medication Order, signed by the prescribing physician

SHORT TERM MEDICATIONS

Medications that must be taken during school hours on a short-term basis require the following forms to be on file:

- A signed and completed Parent/Guardian Consent and medication and Administration Form
- A signed physician's order or current prescription label.

PRN (As needed) MEDICATIONS

School physician, Dr. Kenneth Chan, M.D. has allowed certain over the counter medications to be administered per protocol. Please see the attached *Medication Standing Orders* sheet and sign your Emergency and Health Card for permission for your child to receive medications per protocol.

MEDICATION RETRIEVAL

Parents/guardians may retrieve medications from the school at any time. All unused, discontinued or outdated medications shall be returned to the parent/guardian as occurs. Any and all medications must be picked up by the parent/guardian at the end of the school year. Any medications not retrieved will be discarded.

ILLNESSES

In order to provide the healthiest school environment possible, please do not send your child to school when symptoms of illness are present. According to guidelines set by the American Academy of Pediatrics and our school physician, no child will be allowed to remain in school if any of the following conditions are present: temperature >100 degrees, persistent cough, undiagnosed/untreated skin rash or communicable disease, vomiting/diarrhea, neurological changes, severe pain or disabling injury.

Please notify the school nurse within 24 hours if your child contracts any contagious disease, including but not limited to: strep throat, conjunctivitis, head lice, impetigo, fifth's disease, chicken pox, measles, whooping cough, mononucleosis, scabies, mumps, tuberculosis, and scarlet fever.

POST-ILLNESS SCHOOL ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Children must be fever free without medication and symptom free (vomiting, diarrhea) for 24 hours before returning to school. According to school policy, before a child can return to school, strep throat, impetigo and conjunctivitis require 24 hours of medication. In the case of chicken pox all lesions must be scabbed over before the child can return to school (5-7 days).

Head Lice: Prevention is the key to controlling this pesky problem. Please inspect your child's hair frequently and call the school nurse if you have any questions. Children must be treated, nit free and checked by the school nurse before being readmitted to school.

FOOD POLICY INFORMATION

In order to protect the health and safety of our students with food allergies, **no peanut-butter or products with peanut butter are allowed** in the school. In addition, no food/snacks are allowed to be brought into the school for other students' consumption without the permission of the classroom teacher/administration.

SCREENING PROGRAMS

Heights and Weights: Yearly heights and weights are taken during gym class in grades 1, 3, 5, & 7. Other grades will be done if time allows.

Vision and Hearing: Vision/hearing screening is done yearly in grades Pre-K through 8. Parents will be notified of any failures per Massachusetts' guidelines that necessitate a medical follow-up.

Postural Screening: The state of Massachusetts mandates that all students in grades 5 through 9 be screened for scoliosis. Your child's posture will be screened beginning in fifth grade. Physician referrals will be made as needed.

Developed in collaboration with North Andover Public School Nurses for the health and safety of all students in North Andover schools.

Modified for SMS 6/04