

**“SCHOOL NURSE NOTES”**  
(Fall 2008)  
**DORCHESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

***EMERGENCY CONTACTS***

So that you may be reached in an **emergency**, it is very important for **all parents/guardians** to notify the School Nurse when parent/guardian or emergency contact information changes throughout the school year.

***MEDICATIONS***

**All medications**, including over-the-counter ones (even cough drops), **require a written doctor’s order**. The medication must be brought to school by a responsible adult in the **original labeled container**. New orders are required **each school year** and whenever a change is prescribed. Any remaining medication not picked up by an adult at the end of the school year is disposed of. If you have questions, please contact the school nurse.

***CHANGES TO VISION AND HEARING SCREENINGS***

State of Maryland mandates for **Vision and Hearing Screenings** have changed. Students **entering** the School System for the **first time**, students in **pre-K, 1st and 8<sup>th</sup> grades**, and **any students referred** (for screening) will be screened, during the next few months, by School Health Staff. Any parent objecting to their child being screened, must do so **in writing**, to the school (attention school nurse), as soon as possible. Parents will be notified, in writing, **if their child fails** a health screen at school.

***WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ILL***

**Please do not send ill students to school, “to be checked by the school nurse”.** **This exposes others to the condition.** You may call the School Nurse with questions or concerns, but do not hesitate to consult your child’s health care provider. If your child’s condition will prevent him/her from **fully participating** in routine school activities, please do not send him/her to school. It is a good idea to make child care plans ahead of time, **in the event your child becomes ill** and needs to stay home, or needs to be picked up from school.

***PREVENTION FOR YOUR CHILD***

**Covering coughs and sneezes** helps prevent the spread of diseases. When no tissue is handy, the bend of the elbow (instead of the hand) should be used. **The very best way to prevent the spread of infections is frequent thorough hand washing.** Using an alcohol based hand sanitizer is also effective. Please review this with your child.

Also, remember to make checking for **head lice** part of your household's normal hygiene routine. Please contact the school nurse, child's healthcare provider, or local Health Department, if you have concerns about head lice.

### ***SCHOOL BASED WELLNESS CENTERS***

**School Based Wellness Centers** [located at the middle (except SDS) and high schools] provide part-time Certified Nurse Practitioner services to students **enrolled** in that Program, when referred there by the School Nurses. The School Based Wellness Centers also offer Mental Health Services in all schools, including elementary.

### ***DORCHESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS HEALTH POLICIES***

Additional **Health Policy** information may be found in the 2008-2009 Dorchester County Public Schools Calendar.