

Del Valle ISD Health Services Parent Information

Health Services that are provided for students in Del Valle ISD are designed to assist your child to remain healthy and to stay in class to receive provided instruction whenever possible. As a student is referred to the school nurse, the nurse will carry out interventions to return that student back to class as quickly as possible. If the nurse sees that the student's problem does not permit them to return to class, they will call parents or guardians to have the student picked up. The campus nurse will provide first aid, administer prescribed medications, and assist students with chronic medical conditions as the need arises; several of the guidelines followed in providing these services are listed below.

The campus nurse can treat minor injuries and symptoms at school, but is not able to diagnose or prescribe medications to treat any illnesses. Please do not send your child to school with a temperature above 100.4 degrees; with vomiting and diarrhea; with a rash; with symptoms of 'pinkeye'; or with any injury that significantly impairs their ability to perform normal school activities. All these should be assessed by a health care professional, before the student comes to school and either exposes other students to a communicable disease, or worsens a pre-existing injury. If you are unable to locate a health care provider, please call your campus nurse.

The nurse's office can store and administer medications only under strict district guidelines. The nurse stocks only two over-the-counter medications to give by mouth to students. Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) is available to be given only if a student has a fever of 100.4° or greater, and Diphenhydramine (Benadryl®) can be given in the event of a severe allergic reaction. Neither of these medications can be given if the student does not have a current Health Information Form on file with the nurse which has been signed by the student's parent/guardian stating they can receive these medications. The parent will be called, if possible, when either of these medications are warranted. Prescribed medications for a student can be kept in the nurse's office for routine or 'as-needed' administration; please review a copy of the school's "Medication Administration Guidelines", available from your campus nurse, before submitting any medications to the nurse for school administration.

Please call or come in to talk with your campus nurse about any acute or chronic medical conditions that your child has, that may affect their activity or behavior at school. Some conditions may require that the nurse contact the child's health care provider to receive more guidance on how to care for the child while at school. If this is the case, the nurse will ask you to fill out paperwork to enable the health care provider to release needed information about the child to the nurse. The campus nurse can supply the paperwork necessary to accomplish this.

Health Services staff conduct state-mandated screenings yearly for hearing and vision for PreK, K, 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th grade students, as well as for new students to the school district. Screening for spinal growth abnormalities is done for all 5th and 8th graders; and screening for Acanthosis Nigricans, ruling out predisposition to Type II diabetes, is performed on all 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th grade students. Students from grades Pre-K - 8 shall be exempted from screenings if proof is provided before the assigned screening date that the student has been under the care of a professional in reference to that particular screening within one year prior to the screening date. Students from grades 3 - 8 shall be exempted if proof is provided before the assigned screening date that the student has either been screened or they have been under the care of a professional in reference to that screening within one year prior to the screening date. Students may also be exempted from screenings if an affidavit is presented stating that a particular screening conflicts with the religious practices of that student. Students will not be exempted from health screenings for any reasons other than those stated above.

Pediculosis, or head lice, can be a cause of great concern for parents, particularly in elementary-level students. Students will be excluded from school if they appear to have a case of head lice that has not been controlled or treated, but routine screening for this problem is not currently recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and will not be done. Please ask your school nurse for an informative factsheet about head lice if you would like more information on this subject.

Current immunization records must be presented upon entering or reentering the district; without these, a student will not be allowed to enroll in school. The campus nurse will send out communications to inform parents/guardians about any immunizations a child may need during the course of the school year after initial requirements are met. Students will generally be given two weeks' notice to receive immunizations that come due after which time before they will be withdrawn from school due to noncompliance. Please contact the nurse if you have any questions about these wellness interventions that are provided district-wide throughout the year.

The staff of Health Services wishes your child a safe, productive and healthy school career in Del Valle ISD!