

## **HEALTH SERVICES:**

First aid for injuries and illness response is provided by school staff and if present and available, a school nurse. It may be necessary for the school to contact emergency services or to send a child home due to illness or injury. It is VERY important that the school have current emergency names and phone contacts.

Parents and guardians should complete a new health history form whenever there are significant health changes in your child such as a new life threatening allergy. Ask the school secretary or school nurse for this and any other health related forms, procedures or information or see the district website under the student services then health services tab.

## **ALLERGIES**

The District has procedures for the management of life threatening allergies of students. Information about these procedures may be found on the District's website under the student services then health services tab.

Life threatening reactions are called anaphylaxis (pronounced an-a-fi-LAK-sis). Anaphylaxis can occur from stinging or biting insects, medication, foods or latex. Anaphylaxis is a collection of symptoms affecting multiple systems of the body. The onset of these symptoms is most commonly immediate, although may be delayed by hours. The symptoms can include:

- **Mouth:** Itchy, swelling of tongue and/or lips
- **Throat:** Itchy, tightness/closure, hoarseness, trouble breathing/swallowing
- **Skin:** Itchy, hives, redness, swelling, red watery eyes
- **Gut:** Nausea, vomiting, cramps, diarrhea
- **Lung:** Short of breath, wheeze, repetitive cough
- **Heart:** Pale or blue skin color, dizzy/faint, weak pulse
- **Neurological:** Sense of "impending doom", irritability, change in alertness, mood change, confusion

On occasion, other students and parents may be asked to limit bringing in certain items due to another student's life threatening allergy. Your cooperation with these needed restrictions is greatly appreciated and important to keep all children safe.

## **EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS IN SCHOOLS:**

Each district school may maintain a stock supply of auto-injectable epinephrine to be administered immediately for actual or perceived anaphylaxis ( life threatening allergic reaction) in any student by a school nurse or other authorized personnel in accordance with Montana law (MCA § 20-5-421) and Board Policy 3416. Emergency Medical Services (911/EMS) will be called immediately. The parent will be notified following all administration of epinephrine and EMS notification. The limited stock of this medication is not intended to be used in place of medications previously or currently prescribed for specific students or staff with known allergies. Students with known allergies are expected to continue to provide their own health care provider ordered medications and written individual annual anaphylaxis plan.

## **MEDICATION**

Most student medication can be taken at home either before or after school. Only those medications that your child must have while at school are permitted. "Medications" include prescription, over the counter and homeopathic or alternative medications such as vitamins. For the safety of all students, students are not allowed to carry any medication unless permitted by law (allergy and asthma medications) or by an accommodation plan. Parents or guardians must bring all other medications to the school office or health office in a pharmacy or manufacturer labeled container. All medications must have annual written parent permission and health care provider signature on file. Unused medication is discarded at the end of the school year. Related medication information and forms may be found on the district website under the student services then health services tab.

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND ILLNESS:**

If your child feels too ill to participate in school or needs more care than is reasonable in the classroom, the child should stay home until he/she feel better. A complete list of symptoms or illness when students must stay home can be found on the District website under the student services then the health services tab. Occasionally, it may be necessary for the school to send a child home due to illness. If there is the possibility of a communicable disease, the child may return when the condition clears or a health care provider authorizes the child's return to school. The school may also enforce more stringent illness guidelines when advised or ordered to do so by the health department in outbreaks of contagious illnesses.

### **IMMUNIZATIONS:**

**Immunizations:** All students must have written proof from a health care provider of adequate immunization before they may attend school as per state law, unless they have a current signed medical or religious exemption or conditional form. Please see the school secretary or school nurse for questions or details or the district website under the student services then health services tab. Immunizations are available through your child's health care provider or the Missoula County Health Department located at 301 W. Alder, phone 258-4745, which offers a sliding fee scale for children's immunizations and walk-in hours. You must have a copy of your child's immunization record to obtain immunizations from the health department.

### **HEALTH SCREENINGS:**

Hearing screening is done for kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and vision screening is done for Pre-school through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Parents are notified if there are concerns. Screenings are not meant to take the place of professional exams.