

Boston Public Schools

Maureen Starck, ME.d,BSN,RN,NCSN
Assistant Director Health Services
mstarck@bostonpublicschools.org

443 Warren St
Suite 2
Boston, Mass 02121

617 635 6788 (v)
617 635 8027 (p)



Linda Grant, MD, MPH
Medical Director
lgrant@bostonpublicschools.org

443 Warren St
Suite 2
Boston, Mass 02121

617 635 6788 (v)
617 635 8027 (p)

Health Services

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we welcome you back to the new school year, we in Health Services would like to remind you of our services and how you may reach us. The school nurse at your school wants to hear from parents and your child's primary care provider about how BPS can help manage the physical health issues that could interfere with students doing their best at school. Whether your child has asthma, diabetes, sickle cell, seizure disorder or other chronic or acute conditions- the school nurse needs to know to be able to best care for your child while he/she is in school.

All of this is explained on our HEALTH SERVICES website.

www.bpshealthservices.org

Or you can call the school and ask to speak to the school nurse. Every school has at least a part time nurse.

We are also asking that you be aware that it is inevitable that schools will have some disease events during the course of the year. Most diseases do NOT require general school notifications. The guidelines for notification are established between Health Services and The Boston Public Health Commission (Boston's health department) and are based on CDC guidelines. The school and health department have had a long history of working together to ensure optimum health and safety of the students. But we do recognize that certain conditions, such as Lice(although not a high risk disease) do worry families, so we are sending home information in this packet to help ease the concerns. **A parent is always welcome to discuss their concerns with the nurse.** Your school's site council, at the beginning of the year is a good time to address communication strategies with the administration. **The Health Services Administration is also always available to discuss concerns 617 635 6788.**

Wishing you a productive and healthy school year,

The Health Services Department

Guidelines for Exclusion from School for Illness

We want children to be in school! But there are times when it really is better for children to stay home, both for their own health and the health of other children who may be exposed to the germs. The following are general guidelines . Please call health services if you have any questions or concerns.

Exclusion:

Fever

- An elevation of body temperature above normal (oral 101).
- Behavior changes, ie. stiff neck, difficulty breathing, rash, sore throat, and/or other signs or symptoms of illness are best addressed by the the child's primary care provider
- Should not return until afebrile 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medications.

Diarrhea

- Diarrhea is defined as an increased number of stools compared with a child's normal pattern, along with decreased stool form and/or stools that are watery, bloody, or contain mucus.
- Exclude until 24 hours after diarrhea stops or follow specific disease exclusion if the pathogen is known (noro virus, salmonella, etc); or until a medical exam indicates that it is not due to a communicable disease.

Vomiting

- Child has vomited two or more times in the previous 24 hours.
- Exclude for 24 hours after last episode of vomiting, unless it is determined to be caused by a non infectious condition and the child is not in danger of dehydration.
- If it is NOT infectious , the family and their clinician will need to discuss how to manage continued vomiting.

Respiratory

- Respiratory infections are common. If the child does not have fever, does not appear to have decreased activity or other symptoms, it is **not** necessary for the child to stay home.
- Respiratory Hygiene (coughing into sleeve) and good hand washing help keep germs under control