

West Deptford Middle School Health Office

675 Grove Road
West Deptford, New Jersey 08066

July, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is hard to believe that we have surpassed the halfway point of yet another summer recess. My name is Kimberly Lee, and I am the WDMS nurse. My Health Office aide is Maria DellaRagione. We both would like to welcome you back for the 2023-2024 school year. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to those families who are new to the West Deptford Middle School. We are happy to have you here and we will be working very hard together to meet the health needs for your children.

We cannot stress enough how important it is to have immediate medical information and medications on hand if your child has any **medical conditions that might require nebulizer treatments, inhalers, allergies, diabetes, seizures**, etc. Please contact the Health Office at once to share health information and treatment of your child.

There are a **few school policies** relating to medication that we would like to bring to your attention. Many students need medications during the day. In order to assure that your student receives the medication in a timely manner, the following rules apply:

- **It is very beneficial to have your child's medication and doctor's order given to the school nurse a week prior to the start of school.**
- **All medications** to be administered must be in an **original pharmacy package**, which contains the **student's name, drug name, and dosage of the medication and the time it should be administered.**
- **A new prescription** for medications **is required every year.**
- **A written doctor's prescription** must accompany the medication.
- **A medication form** must be completed and signed by a physician and signed by a Parent/Guardian. **A new form is required every year.**
- Students are **not allowed** to bring in their medication.

- **Medications** must be brought into the health office by a **parent/guardian**.
- **Medication refills** must be brought to school by the **parent/guardian**.
- Students that have **asthma must have an inhaler at school for emergency** use even in slight cases. Please complete an **Asthma Treatment Plan**.
- All students with **allergies to food/bees/latex** must have an EpiPen at school. Please complete the **Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan**.
- All students that have **diabetes, must have an Emergency Care Plan completed by their physician**.
- All students that have **seizures or other medical concerns must have an Emergency Care Plan completed by their physician**.
- All **over the counter medications** that need to be administered at school must be in the original bottle and sealed. **A physician order must be provided, for medication to be given as well.**
- Please contact the Health Office if your child **starts or discontinues** any medications or treatments during the school year.
- **“All students playing sports at the WDMS, must have their emergency medications and treatments plans and/or Doctor’s orders brought to the school prior to the first day practice.”**

The health/medication forms are available on the school’s website and in the Health Office. You may use an Emergency Care Plan provided from your physician. **The forms should be complete by the first day of school, so the student can receive their medications. We are not permitted to give any medication without a doctor’s order.** However, Tylenol and Ibuprofen may be administered with written permission by a parent /guardian. If your child can not swallow pills, please send in Liquid or chewable Tylenol and/or Ibuprofen.

If your child suffers from a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or any other contagious illness, please keep them home. It is the school district policy that a student should remain out of school for at least **24 hours** after symptoms have cleared up.

Health screening will be performed every year. Parents will be informed of any abnormalities.

- 5th grade – height, weight, and blood pressure
- 6th grade – height, weight, blood pressure, vision, hearing and scoliosis (curvature of the spine).
- 7th grade – height, weight, and blood pressure
- 8th grade – height, weight, blood pressure, vision, hearing, and scoliosis (curvature of the spine).

6th Grade Vaccination Requirements

If your child will be 11 years old when they begin 6th grade, they are required by the New Jersey Department of Health, to receive both the Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (Menactra), and Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap) vaccines prior to the first day of the 2023-2024 school year. Written medical documentation by a physician of these vaccinations must be provided to the school nurse. If a Health Physical is completed with vaccinations, please attach a copy to your child's vaccination records.

Students that are 10 years old when entering sixth grade will not be required to receive these vaccines until they turn 11 years of age. They need to have written documentation of their appointment on the day that they are scheduled to be vaccinated. They must receive the vaccine within two weeks of their 11th birthday.

If your child does not have health insurance, you may bring your child to the Gloucester County Health Department Immunization Clinic at no cost to you. You must make an appointment: Call 856-218-4100 between 8am-4pm. The Health Department is located at 204 E. Holly Avenue, Sewell, New Jersey.

You can email, fax or put the documents in the School Nurse drop box, placed outside of the West Deptford Middle School. Please contact Kim Lee at the health office if you have any questions.

Failure to comply with this state mandate may result in your child's exclusion from school.

Peanut/TreeNuts Allergies

Many students at the WDMS have severe **allergies to peanuts/tree-nuts**. Strict avoidance is the only way to prevent a severe life-threatening reaction. **For parties, celebrations and rewards non- food alternatives will be given.** A peanut/tree-nuts-free table is provided in the cafeteria. **A student with a peanut/tree-nuts allergy may sit at a regular lunch table with documented permission by their parent/guardian.**

If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. For a quick response or if you need to drop off medications email me. Please do not leave a voicemail for me over the summer. Thank you!

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