

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BALLFIELD ROAD  
LINCOLN, MASSACHUSETTS 01773

August 2006

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please read the information below which briefly outlines the Lincoln Public School's policies on illness and medications, important state requirements for physical exam and immunizations for students entering grade 7, and requirements for participation on sports teams.

After you have read the information, please feel free to call the school nurse if you have any questions. The Lincoln Campus nurse, Maureen Richichi, can be reached at 781-259-9407; the Hanscom Campus nurse, Jane Ward, can be reached at 781-274-7723.

### ILLNESS POLICY

**Children who are ill are to be kept at home until they have been without fever, vomiting and/or diarrhea for 24 hours. Any child who is placed on antibiotics for a communicable disease must remain at home until he/she has completed 24 hours of antibiotic therapy.** However, children with ear infections or sinus infections may return to school before 24 hours of antibiotic therapy have passed if the child is feeling well enough to return to school.

**Children should be kept home in the following situations:**

1. Fever of 100° or greater or one degree above the child's documented normal temperature.
2. Vomiting.
3. Diarrhea.
4. Presence or suspicion of chicken pox, impetigo, mumps, whooping cough, bacterial conjunctivitis, scarlet fever, measles, lice or scabies.

Children who are in school and develop symptoms of any of the above will be sent home. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide transportation home for his/her ill child.

**Please note the following new Massachusetts State guidelines regarding chicken pox:**

Susceptible students or staff, who are not immunized or are without a history of chickenpox, shall be excluded from school from the 10<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> days after their last exposure.

### MEDICATION POLICY

Following are the school district's policies, established according to state guidelines and law, regarding the dispensing of medications. Thank you in advance for reviewing and completing the necessary paperwork that allows us to facilitate home/school collaboration in meeting your child's health care needs.

**No medication shall be self-administered in school** by any child unless there is a written physician's order and permission from the child's parent/guardian on file in the nurse's office, and only after an initial consultation between the student, parent/guardian and the school nurse, and then only if the school nurse determines that it is safe and appropriate for the child to self-medicate.

#### Prescription Medications

1. Prescription medications **MUST** be delivered to the Health Unit in an original labeled

prescription container by a Parent / Guardian or delegated Adult. **A CHILD MAY NOT TRANSPORT A MEDICATION.**

2. There **MUST** be a written order from your child's physician on file with the school nurse for all prescription medications that are to be given for more than 10 days.
3. There **MUST** be written permission from a parent / guardian on file with the school nurse which authorizes the school nurse or her delegate to dispense the medication, regardless of the duration of the prescription. This note must also specify what the medication is for, when it should be given and for how many days.

### **Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medications**

Over-the-counter medications are treated just like prescription medications. The same rules apply.

### **Protocol Medications**

Protocol medications may be dispensed by the school nurse when the enclosed "Protocol Permission" form is on file in the nurse's office. Please note that EACH CHILD must have this form on file. We will continue to use last year's forms until **OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>**. After that date we will not be able to dispense any of the protocol medications unless this year's form is on file. We CANNOT take verbal permission from a parent/guardian over the phone for any medication.

Feel free to copy the form if you need more than one, or contact the nurse's office and we will send extra copies home with your child(ren).

**Please remember that while the state laws regarding the dispensing of medication are strict they have been enacted for the protection of your child(ren).**

### **\*\*STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 7 – IMPORTANT NOTICE\*\***

The statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Department of Public Health **REQUIRE**, upon entry to grade seven, evidence of a current physical exam and evidence of required immunizations. The regulations governing the immunization of seventh grade school children have been amended.

The current requirements for this age group are as follows: **Hepatitis B series, 2 doses of the MMR vaccine, a tetanus-diphtheria booster (if 5 or more years since last dose) and Varicella (Chicken Pox) immunization (or physician documentation of a history of chicken pox).**

Please plan ahead and arrange for your child to begin immunization now so that the scheduled September deadline can be met. When requirements have been met, please bring the immunization record to the school so that the information can be added to the school health record.

### **\*\*PARTICIPATION ON INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS TEAMS\*\***

According to Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) regulations, students in Grades 6-8 who want to play on team sports **MUST** have a current (within the 13 months prior to play) physical exam on file in the Health Unit. Physical exams must be updated as necessary during the season of play.

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