



# Kimberly Area School District HEALTH SERVICES NEWS

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## **From the desk of your school nurse: Current school health issues ~Summer/Fall 2017**

**State of Wisconsin Immunization Laws:** Certain immunizations are mandated by the State. If your student has received any new immunizations/vaccines, please call to let your school office know, so health records are kept up to date.

**Meningitis:** Meningococcal disease is a serious illness, caused by bacteria.

It is an infection of fluid surrounding the brain and the spinal cord and causes blood infections. Anyone can get meningococcal disease. Meningococcal infections can be treated with drugs such as penicillin. Still, about 1 out of every ten people who get the disease dies from it, and many others are affected for life. This is why *preventing* the disease through good hygiene (i.e.: good hand washing and not sharing water bottles) and use of meningococcal vaccine is important.

The vaccine is not mandated for school attendance, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend the immunization for students at the preadolescent doctor's visit (11 to 12-year-olds). (See the CDC website or talk with your health care provider.)

**A Reminder about MRSA:** MRSA stands for Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*. MRSA is a type of Staph bacterium that has developed resistance to antibiotics usually used to treat the infection.

The primary way individuals "get" MRSA is by contact (direct or indirect) with a person who either has a wound infection, an infection of the respiratory tract, or who is colonized with the bacteria.

You can prevent infection by: Keeping wounds covered and cover mouth and nose when sneezing. Hand washing is the most important prevention measure. Hands should always be washed after using the toilet and before handling food, with soap and water for at least 15-30 seconds. Contact with body fluids that are not your own should be avoided.

**Medication Policies:** Health services forms for medication administration are available on the district web site. ALL prescription and non-prescription medications must be accompanied by a form and signed by parent and health care provider (prescription medications). Please check with a school nurse if you have questions regarding any medication policy.

**Emergency Medications:** Please be aware that emergency medications that are provided for use during the school day will **not** be accessible before or after school hours. Parents and students must plan ahead to have emergency medication available during school activities such as clubs and sports. If an emergency arises and a student does not have their emergency medication available, 911 will be called.

**When to keep your child home:** 1. Fever >100.0 degrees 2. Nausea, vomiting/diarrhea  
3. Communicable diseases such as Pertussis and Measles are of concern at school. Symptoms may include: low grade fever, cold-like symptoms (cough, runny nose, watery eyes). Please contact your health care provider if these symptoms are present.

**Concussions:** If your child sustains a traumatic fall with or without a hit to the face or head your health care provider should be made aware, due to potential for concussion. Brain injuries can affect learning and student behavior and are resolved more successfully with early recognition and treatment.

**Lastly, if your student has had any change in health history or medication, or you have questions related to school health, please feel free to contact your school nurse.**

All health related policies, information and forms can be found on the District web site: [Health Services](#).