

## 2021-2022 SMYER ISD

### SCHOOL NURSE'S OFFICE PROTOCOL

THE FOLLOWING POLICIES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED FOR USE IN THE SMYER ISD NURSE'S OFFICE. LISTED BELOW ARE THE GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS TO FOLLOW:

**\*Due to COVID-19, OTC medications will be given very cautiously, as not to mask symptoms of the virus.\***

**COVID-19 SYMPTOMS-** A student displaying the following symptoms will be assessed by the nurse and may possibly be sent home according to the Smyer ISD COVID Guidelines. The school nurse may administer a rapid antigen test to students and/or staff displaying symptoms of COVID-19. Consent will be requested as needed. Symptoms include, but are not limited to:

- Feeling feverish, or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea

**\*\*If a student is sent home with possible symptoms of COVID-19, a doctor's note will be required for reentry into school.**

**FEVER-** A student will be sent home with a temperature of 100.0 degrees or above. A temperature check is always obtained on all students complaining of a headache, stomachache, nausea, vomiting, earache or sore throat, or if the student has had a recent fever or was given medication for fever at home. A student must be fever free (without using fever reducing medications) for 24 hours before returning to school.

**VOMITING-** A student will be sent home if they have vomited at school. A student is not always sent home for coughing and then vomiting (or drainage induced vomiting), unless it becomes a problem for the student in the classroom or the teacher. The nurse will assess the student and use their discretion. A student must wait 24 hours after vomiting has stopped to return to school.

**DIARRHEA-** A student will be sent home if they have diarrhea and it indicates a contagious illness. A student must wait 24 hours after diarrhea has stopped to return to school.

**EARACHE-** A student complaining of an earache will be assessed by the nurse. This assessment may include visualization of the inner ear with an otoscope. The nurse will contact the parent when any signs and symptoms of possible infection are noted.

**PINK EYE-** The student will be sent home if there is any evidence of matting of the eye or eyes that suggests infection is present. This is a highly contagious infection, but is easily treatable with medicated eye drops. The student may return to school after seeing a physician and following the doctor's prescription. Typically the student may return after 24 hours on prescription eye drops, and no matting remaining in the affected eye/eyes, but doctor's orders will be followed. Eye drops can be given at school with a written note from the parent and in the original box with the student's prescription label on it. If the eye is red, but no matting, the nurse may send a note home for the parent to be aware to observe for signs of pink eye.

**STOMACHACHE/NAUSEA-** The nurse will assess the student. The student may be offered crackers and water and/or mints. The student may be allowed to rest in the nurse's office for 10-15minutes. If no vomiting occurs, and no other significant findings are assessed by the nurse, the student will be sent back to class. If actual vomiting occurs, the student may be sent home as per the vomiting protocol.

**HEADACHE-** The student will be assessed by the nurse and may be given water and/or crackers and may be allowed to rest for 10-15minutes with an ice pack to their forehead. OTC medications (Ibuprofen or Acetaminophen) may be given if the consent has been signed for the student by the parent, the parent has provided OTC medications and at the nurse's discretion.

**SORE THROAT-** The student will be assessed by the nurse. If pus pockets, petechiae (bruising) or a red beefy appearance is noted in the throat, the student will be sent home. A signed note from a physician will be required for the student to return to school. If a diagnosis of strep throat is made by a physician, the student can only return to school after they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours and they have also been fever free for 24 hours (without using fever reducing medications).

**SPLINTERS-** Splinters will only be removed if they are protruding from the skin.

**LICE-** A student is sent home if an infestation of live lice is found. If sent home, the student must begin treatment for the lice immediately. Smyer ISD provides a lice kit to students found with live lice when they are sent home. A student is not sent home for nits (or eggs). The nurse will check the hair before the student can return to the class room and the nurse will use their discretion on a case by case basis.

**RASHES-** A student will be sent home for any unidentified rash or if the rash spreads. The nurse will use their discretion on a case by case basis.

**HEAD INJURY/INJURY-** A student will be assessed on an individual basis. The type and severity of the injury will determine treatment. A phone call may be made, or a note sent home depending on the need of the student.

**MEDICATIONS**- Please consult the OTC and Prescription Medication Policy information.

**EMERGENCY CONTACTS**- Please inform the nurse's office or main office of any change in home, work and cell phone numbers. An attempt to contact the parent will be made first. If a parent is unable to be contacted, the numbers on the emergency contact list will be utilized. The emergency contact needs to be someone that can pick up your child in the event you cannot be reached.

**\*\*If a student is seen in the nurse's office, a yellow letter will come home with the student at the end of the day explaining the visit with the nurse and the interventions that were implemented for the student. The parent will be contacted if the nurse or appropriate staff believes it is necessary to contact the parent.\*\***

**IMMUNIZATIONS**- All students must be in compliance with the Texas State immunization laws. New or transferring students from another school are allowed 30 days to be in compliance with the Texas State laws. New students from another state will be required to have all immunizations before they start. No student may attend school without a copy of the current and up-to-date immunization records. For more information on the laws that apply in the State of Texas, please visit: [www.immunizetexas.org](http://www.immunizetexas.org)

**STATE REQUIRED SCREENINGS**- The State of Texas requires that Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and all newly enrolled students in Texas public schools must be screened for hearing and vision every school year. Scoliosis screening is also required for 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys every year during the fall semester. The nurse or other designated personnel will conduct the screenings in compliance with State laws yearly. For more information on these requirements, please visit: [www.dshs.state.tx.us/vhs](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vhs) and [www.dshs.texas.gov/spinal](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/spinal)

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