



Volume 3 Issue 1

Nurses Notes

Fall 2004

Fall Reminders

Influenza: As you may have read, there is a supply shortage of vaccine for the upcoming flu season. We had anticipated that if there were any vaccines available we would hold clinics after November 1, 2004. Persons in the following groups should contact your physician or attend one of the clinics held locally. I will send information to all of the school nurses so they can pass it on to you. We would like to remind you that hand washing is the next best preventable measure to lessen the possibility of illness. As always, your school nurse would be happy to answer any questions.

Our mission is to promote an optimal level of wellness for each individual, and to advance the educational process while including the integration, coordination and modifications of health needs of all students.

The CDC has issued the following priority list for Influenza Vaccination

The following priority groups for vaccination with inactivated influenza vaccine this season are considered to be of equal importance and are:

- all children aged 6–23 months;
 - adults aged ≥ 65 years;
 - persons aged 2–64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions;
 - all **women** who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
 - residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
 - children** aged 6 months–18 on chronic aspirin therapy
- Health-care workers involved in direct patient care and
Out of home caregivers and household contacts of children aged <6 months.
See page 2 for more information on this subject

AEDs—Automatic external defibrillator, which is used to restart the heart in a medical emergency. We currently have one in the nurses office at the high school. We would like to have additional machines and will be looking for funding. If you would like to assist us in this please contact your school Nurse. Thank You!

Helmet Law

Massachusetts has a new law. Children under 16 are now required to wear a bicycle helmet when using a bicycle, skateboards, in-line skates, razor scooters or any other manually propelled wheeled vehicles.

Every year 40,000 children are treated in emergency rooms for head injuries while riding their bikes. This law applies to operators and their passengers. According to the law the helmet must fit appropriately and be secured with straps, and is in effective on all streets, bike paths, sidewalks, p arks, parking lots and other public ways. This law goes into effect November 25,2004.

Additional cdc influenza information:

Persons in the identified priority groups should look for local vaccine clinics if their regular health-care provider does not have vaccine available.

Intranasally administered, live, attenuated influenza vaccine, if available, should be encouraged for healthy persons aged 5-49 years and are not pregnant, including health care workers (except those who care for severely immunocompromised patients) and persons caring for children less than 6 months of age. Should your child have the intranasally administered vaccine please inform your school nurse as it may compromise those students with immunity concerns.

The North Attleboro Community Youth Coalition

This coalition was started to address the needs of the youth of our community with the strengths of our schools, businesses and community organizations. All individuals and organizations are welcome. The focus this year is to address the concerns of inactivity, nutrition and to offer choices for our middle school students. We are developing after school programs that will be free of charge to the students. Last spring the YMCA did a survey of the students who are currently in the middle school to identify their areas of interest. Using this information along with a survey of what activities students are currently enrolled in, such as sports, other organized programs we will offer other options for those students who don't participate in a program. The Food service program is also working on this, with the "imove" food choices. Contact Judy Aubin at 508-643-2163 if you would like more information or if you would like to be involved.

Physical Requirements

Reminder: Students in grades k,4,7 and 10 as well as those new to our system, are required by state law to provide the results of a recent physical. Your doctor knows your child best. We can assist you if you do not have Insurance in order to find a primary physician. If your child participates in sports you will need two copies-one for the nurses office and one for the athletic form-kept with the coach.

Seventh Grade Admission

Seventh graders are required to have the hepatitis B series, a second measles vaccine, a tetanus booster as well as proof of having chicken pox, or having the vaccine. Documentation of this information can be left at the Middle School Office in the box marked nurses. Students who have not met the state requirements will be excluded from school by September.

Substitute School Nurses Needed

Our school system is looking for qualified substitute school nurses. If you are a Registered Nurse in Massachusetts and would like to know more about this nursing specialty, please contact Judith Aubin, Nurse Leader, at (508) 643-2140. You will need to complete an application form at the Superintendents office and a brief orientation program.



Visit us at www.naschools.net
You can find important dates, phone numbers and more!

It is against the law to use any tobacco products on North Attleboro School Property, Including School Sponsored events.

**Join the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids:
For Information:
www.kickbuttsday.org
ysmoke.org**

Hand Washing-again

Hygiene is a top priority with us. We begin with the pre-school program and reinforce the proper technique with the Kindergarteners. We also emphasize the importance of covering their mouths when coughing or sneezing. Studies have proven the hand washing is key to prevention of many communicable diseases. So please join us in encouraging your children to wash their hands whenever possible but especially: before eating, after sneezing, coughing., especially if they don't have access to a tissue, after using the bathroom, after playing with an animal.

"You cannot educate a child who is not healthy, and you cannot keep a child healthy who is not educated" Dr. Joyclyn Elders former surgeon general

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