



September 2, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians of our Nazareth Students,

Welcome to a new school year from the Nazareth School Nurses!

We are looking forward to seeing how much our returning students have grown over the summer break and to meeting all of our new students. It really is an exciting time!

As you know, it is also a challenging time in our country and in our world on many fronts. Right now, the Nazareth nurses are focused on the health of our students as they return to school and our goal of keeping them as healthy as possible.

This letter will address TWO areas:

1. School Physical Forms -- Especially for NEW parents

We ask that, as much as possible, you provide a completed physical exam form, dated within the past 12 months, prior to or at the start of school. This is important because it is the only written information we are likely to have about your child's baseline health or medical conditions. Should there be a medical problem at school, we would need this information. If your child has not had a physical within 12 months AND it is impossible to get a medical appointment before school starts, please let us know the date of your appointment. In this case, it would be helpful to have a copy of their most recent physical, regardless of the date, while we wait for the results of the updated exam.

2. Immunizations

Please be sure your child has all the immunizations they need for their age before starting school. (You should have received a list of the required immunizations during the summer.) If your child is still missing an immunization once school starts, you will be notified. In this case there is a grace period of 14 days from the start of school for the child to be immunized. If the child is not fully immunized at the end of the grace period, the child will have to be excluded from school (per NYS law) until immunized.

3. Covid 19

You may know that COVID numbers are higher now than they were in early September of last year. Additionally, Monroe County is labeled a zone of high transmission. We say this to remind everyone that it is just as important now as it was last year to take COVID very seriously and to take as many precautions as we can to keep the virus out of our school.

To that end, I want to remind our veteran parents of the need to perform the Daily Health and Wellness Check (*an attachment to this email*) every morning before your child (children) leave for school. At the same time, we are introducing this checklist to our new parents.

If your child has any symptom(s) on the list, it is important that you keep them home from school, inform one of us and follow recommendations for contact with your medical provider and/or COVID testing. As most of you remember from last year, the nurse will call you to pick up your child if they show symptoms at school.

Additionally, we want to encourage adult family members and children over 12 to get the COVID vaccine. So far it has been shown to be safe and it definitely cuts down on infections, severity of infections and transmission. This is an important way to protect the younger children who can't be vaccinated yet.

You will be receiving more specific COVID related information from the nurse's office as the situation continues to evolve this year.

Please don't hesitate to call us with questions as we begin the school year. One of us will be in the office Monday through Friday from 8 am to 3 pm starting Wednesday, September 8.

With many prayers for a safe and happy school year, we are your Nazareth School Nurses,

Sr. Marlene Pape RN MS

Kathleen Knope LPN