

Section X - Health & Wellness

The following section contains information regarding the health and well-being of our students.

Medical Policies & Procedures

Lionsgate Academy makes every effort to promote the health and well-being of all students. Information that parents/guardians can provide regarding their child's health concerns, illness, injury or stresses helps to ensure student success at school. Lionsgate Academy utilizes guidance from public health officials (including the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health) in developing policies and procedures in the school. Health offices are staffed with building nurses (LPNs) and/or unlicensed health aides under the direction of the District School Nurse.

Doctor's Orders

Individual students may require specific medical procedures or prescription medications during the school day. ***A written doctor's order and parent/guardian permission are required and must be received by the school nurse prior to providing any invasive medical procedure or administering prescription medication.*** This documentation must be reviewed by the school nurse and on file in the health office before any medical procedures or prescription medications will be administered. Physicians may fax orders directly to the Lionsgate Academy school nurse.

Annual Student Health Information

A Student Health Information form must be completed by the parent/guardian every year before school starts. Online completion of this form is also available yearly via registration on ParentVue. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to update the health office with changes to their student's health status. The form can also be obtained through the school office and will also be available for families at the back to school event held in late August prior to each school year.

Medication

Lionsgate Academy recognizes that students may need medications throughout the school day and is prepared to provide medication administration. We also recognize that the safest and most appropriate place for students to receive daily medications is at home when possible. Parents/guardians are encouraged to work with their doctor to schedule medications during non-school hours if possible.

Prescription medication

No prescription medications will be administered to any student without written authorization by the parent/guardian **and** the student's licensed medical prescriber. According to the State of Minnesota, a prescribing medical provider is defined as one of the following: Physician (MD), Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN/NP), Physician's Assistant (PA), Dentist, Podiatrist, Osteopath, and Psychiatrist. Other professions such as chiropractor, naturopathic provider, nutritionist, or nurse do not have authorization to prescribe medication and cannot complete the written authorization form.

An *Authorization for Administration of Medication* form, available through ParentVUE and also located in Lionsgate Academy's student health office, must be completed with the name of the medication, the dosage of the medication, time identified, route, and reason for medication. This form must be reviewed by the school nurse and on file in the health office before medication will be administered. **Prescription medication must be received in its original container with the pharmacy label.** Lionsgate Academy assumes no liability for adverse drug effects when following the medical prescriber's orders. Please contact your school nurse if you have further questions.

All students, including those over the age of 18, are not allowed to carry their own medication. All medications must be administered by the school nurse following the requirements above. Exceptions to this rule may be made for students whose medical provider has given written permission for the student to self carry AND the student has documented this agreement with the school nurse. The District School Nurse must approve any self-carry exemption and approval may be revoked if the student exhibits an inability to manage their medications safely in the school environment. Exceptions are only granted for epi-pens, inhalers, and over-the-counter medications.

Over-The-Counter (OTC) Medications

Over-the-counter medications are defined as medications that can be purchased without a prescription and are FDA approved for home use. Select OTC medications can be given by health staff with only written parent/guardian permission. The OTC medication form can be found in the health office as well as on the Lionsgate Academy website. This form must be completed and signed before medication can be administered. OTC medications must be provided by the student in the original, sealed container and will only be given as directed by the manufacturer. Items such as vitamins and supplements are not FDA approved and therefore cannot be administered as an OTC medication.

Complementary/Alternative Medicines (CAM)

Complementary/Alternative Medicines (CAM) are generally defined as substances that are not FDA approved and may not routinely be considered conventional medicine. CAMs include vitamins and supplements that can be found commercially but are not FDA approved. **As a general rule, CAMs cannot be administered at school.** In rare cases exceptions can be made when the following conditions are met: a signed physician letter clearly stating the following:

1. why the CAM is needed during school hours and indications for administration,

2. any potential side effects or adverse reactions to the medications,
3. the name of medication,
4. dose of medication,
5. time given, and
6. route (by mouth, topical, etc.).

Parents/guardians must also provide written permission to administer the medication as indicated in the physician's letter. The CAM must be in the original manufacturer's container with instructions for use clearly written on the label. Regardless of the above, the District School Nurse does have the discretion to refuse to allow CAMs to be given at school.

Medical Cannabis

At this time, Minnesota state [statutes](#) prohibit use of cannabis and cannabis-related products on school grounds. This includes products obtained legally via the Minnesota Medical Cannabis program, and CBD/CBN/THC products sold commercially derived from hemp. As a result, all cannabis and hemp-related CBD/CBN/THC products cannot be administered at school or be located on campus or school transportation at any time.

Emergency Information

To ensure the safety and well-being of students, parents/guardians are required to complete an emergency form each year online via ParentVUE (or by calling the office). It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform school personnel (advisor, case manager, licensed staff), health staff, or office staff of any changes that occur during the school year (e.g., address or phone number, emergency contact information). Changes in health information (medication/medical procedure needed at school, health status) should be reported to the school nurse.

Health Care Plans

If a student has a medical condition that requires special care or monitoring during the school day, a health care plan is developed by our licensed school nurse in collaboration with the parent/guardian with input from the student's health provider. The health plan contains vital information needed to provide proper health care during the student's school day. In some cases, physician's orders may be required or requested for specialized procedures and/or continuity of care between home and school.

Immunizations

The state of Minnesota requires all students to have immunizations updated and to keep a current immunization record form on file in the school office. Parents/guardians must provide a current immunization record **prior** to student's attendance at school. If parent/guardians do not want their child to receive immunizations, the parent/guardian must obtain a notarized statement which will be kept in the student's school health file.

Immunization forms can be obtained from the front office. They are also available on the school website follow school>(campus)> school nurse. It is important for parents/guardians to be aware that while specific exemptions exist for immunizations, unvaccinated students are at greater risk for those diseases and, in the event of an outbreak in the school setting, will be required to stay out of school for a period of time determined by public health officials. In the case of some diseases (like measles) unvaccinated students may be required to remain off campus for up to 21 days or more.

Illness/Injury

Students who become ill during the day will be referred to the school health staff. If it is determined that a student needs to go home, staff will inform the parent/guardian and work with the advisor (i.e., case manager, licensed staff) to coordinate arrangements for transportation home. Parents/guardians or designated drivers must sign out their students in the school office before leaving the building. If someone other than the parent/guardian is meeting the student, parent/guardian permission is required to release the student. The responsible person must show identifying information including name, address, and telephone number. Proper identification may be requested of individuals not recognized by office staff.

Students who display the following symptoms during school will need to be sent home.

- Severe pain or discomfort
- Diarrhea (3 or more episodes in 24 hours)
- Vomiting
- Severe coughing or sore throat
- Temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Bacterial infections (including strep throat)
- Jaundice skin or eyes
- Chicken pox or other communicable viruses
- Infected, untreated skin patches/lesions
- Difficult or rapid breathing
- Undiagnosed skin rash
- Injuries requiring medical intervention
- Swollen joints, visibly enlarged lymph nodes
- Unexplained lethargy or not able to participate in the program activities with reasonable comfort

In addition, if students are displaying these symptoms, they should not come to school until they have been symptom-free for at least 24 hours without the use of symptom-reducing medication. Some conditions, such as strep throat, will require 24 hours of antibiotic use before returning to school. Guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will be utilized for decisions around all communicable diseases.

COVID-19 conditions will significantly alter these expectations. Students who display symptoms of flu or respiratory illness will be excluded from school following Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Guidelines. This exclusion may last up to 10 days as determined by

the District School Nurse. Additional guidance is provided via the current LGA Covid Policy and from the CDC and MDH.

If your student becomes ill during the day, parents will be notified, and the student will be given the opportunity to rest in the health office until a parent/guardian arrives, within a 1 hour timeline. Students who are sent home due to an illness are not able to be readmitted to school until they are symptom free for a minimum of 24 hours. ***If students have a health plan on file that addresses any of the above symptoms and the staff response, the health plan will be honored over and above this illness procedure. Parents/guardians may be asked for physician's clearance prior to returning to school in situations where it is unclear if the student should return to school.***

The teaching team and support staff receive specific training in Staff/Student Emergency Procedures. The following outlines the process used:

Notify the student's advisor (i.e., case manager, licensed staff) AND the school health office of any health problems, conditions, (e.g., head lice, strep throat etc.) or contagious diseases immediately. A designated LGA staff will notify the school nurse.

The student's advisor (i.e., case manager, licensed staff), designated administrative staff, or school nurse will promptly inform the parents/guardians in the event of serious injury or illness while a student is at school.

Students must remain home for a minimum of 24 hours after starting antibiotics. Parents/guardians should notify the school health office of any new medications when started. Students must be fever free without the use of fever reducing medications for 24 hours before returning to school.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to arrange dental and medical appointments during non-school hours when possible. Parents/guardians should notify the case manager of any upcoming appointments whenever possible. Parents/guardians or designated drivers must sign out their students in the school office before leaving the building for the appointment.

Parents/ guardians or designated drivers must accompany the student to the office upon return.

It is suggested that students have periodic physical, vision, hearing and scoliosis examinations.

Allergen Policy

Lionsgate Academy takes reasonable and necessary precautions when advised of an allergy or other medical issue that may impact a student's education and health or the health of an employee. Students with life-threatening allergies are required to provide an anaphylactic plan from their doctor with details regarding emergency care, including providing medications (EPI PEN, benadryl, etc.) and when to call 911.

Sharing Food Prohibited

Students are not to share food at any time.

Classroom Treats

If students wish to celebrate an occasion with food, the food must be store-bought and packaged and must not contain peanuts or tree nuts. Home-made baked goods are not to be brought to school.

Food Deliveries

Students are not permitted to order food for delivery anytime during the school day.

Prohibited Foods & Materials

Please do not bring peanuts, food containing peanuts, tree nuts, or food containing tree nuts to school. Tree nuts include walnuts, pecans/pralines, hazelnut/filbert, cashew, pistachio, almond, acorn, Brazil nut, macadamia nut, pine nuts/pinon/pinon nut, shea nut, coconut. Also peach pits in whole peaches should not be brought to school.

Please do not bring fish or shellfish to school.

Please do not wear perfume, cologne, body spray or perfumed lotions to school.