



BSD HEALTH OFFICE NEWSLETTER ♦ AUGUST 2023



BECC ♦ CENTRAL PRIMARY ♦ BLANCO ELEMENTARY ♦ NAABA ANI ♦ MAJH ♦ BHS ♦ CYB

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

The Bloomfield School District Health Services Department would like to warmly welcome all new and returning students and families back to school. Going back to school can be a hectic time for kids, families, and school staff. Our tips and resources will help prepare children and school health professionals for the new school year ahead.

Student wellness and healthy lifestyle choices are linked to academic success. School health professionals are in the unique position of fostering students and staff daily with respect to these choices. Our primary goal is to promote healthy school environments while enhancing the potential for full participation in our academic settings. This is accomplished by early identification of health problems, assistance in accessing health care providers in the community, and design of educational and health strategies to accommodate health problems to maximize the student's participation in their education. The health of students and staff and the systems around them have an integral effect on the ability to achieve success. Services provided in our school health offices are directed toward supporting the student and staff in ways that heighten the opportunity for success.

At the beginning of each school year, we like to remind parents/guardians and students of important information and ask for cooperation in providing the necessary documentation and communication regarding your student(s) in order to ensure their health, safety, and continued success.

- **HEALTH CONCERNS:** Please inform the health office of any chronic health concerns/conditions, new medical diagnoses, or any health related issues regarding your student(s). Students with chronic medical conditions (*i.e. life-threatening allergies, asthma, diabetes I/II, epilepsy/seizures, food/diet restrictions*) will need a current and updated action plan from their primary healthcare provider each school year. These documents outline a child's plan of care in an emergency situation. Action Plans can be found on the [Bloomfield School District Website](#). You may also contact the health office at your student's school or obtain one from your primary healthcare provider.
- **ANNUAL MEDICAL HISTORY FORM:** Please complete and return this form as soon as possible. You may get a copy from your school health office or by visiting the [Bloomfield School District Website](#).
- **IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS:** New Mexico law requires that all students be immunized against certain vaccine-preventable communicable diseases. These requirements are determined by the NM Department of Health (NMDOH) in collaboration with the New Mexico Vaccine Advisory Committee (VAC) using recommendations from the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Students in New Mexico may be exempt from these [Immunization Requirements](#) for medical or religious reasons by requesting exemption through the NMDOH. The school health office can assist parents/guardians in obtaining this form. Please note that exemption status must be renewed every school year.
- **MEDICATIONS:** No student is to carry prescription or over-the-counter medications at school. A healthcare provider's order and/or a parent/guardian consent form must accompany all medications (*i.e. inhalers, emergency epinephrine, daily medications, antibiotics, eye drops, ear drops, cough drops, over-the-counter pain medication, or any prescriptions*) to be given during the school day. Please visit the health office to obtain consent forms and drop off any medications.

- **MEDICAL EMERGENCIES:** Health staff are required to maintain CPR/First Aid/AED certification. School nurses have exemplary assessment skills and are trained to recognize the signs/symptoms of emergencies. If assessment findings indicate a possible medical emergency concerning your student, EMS/911 will be called. Please ensure that your student(s) have a completed [Health Authorization Form](#) on file. If any information previously documented on that form has changed, please update it as soon as possible.
- **VISION/HEARING/DENTAL SCREENINGS:** The [New Mexico School Health Manual \(NMSHM\)](#) stresses that “one of the important functions of a school health program is to promote student health through early identification and detection of health problems that may result in disability and/or interfere with learning. When performed in a context of individual health assessments and continuing care, carefully planned and implemented screening programs are appropriate components of the school health program” (NMSHM, Ch. 3, 2023). These required screenings are completed by our school health professionals as well as some outside agencies such as the [New Mexico Lions Club](#) and [Participa! Dental Services](#). Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may also request that their student(s) be screened at any time throughout the school year. Contact the health office at your student’s school for further information and consent forms.

As a reminder, school health assistants (HA) and nurses (RN) in Bloomfield School District are available for any health related issues your student(s) may experience during the school day. We are available to discuss any concerns you may have either in person, via email or phone. We appreciate all you do to assist us in keeping all of our students safe, healthy, and successful. We hope you have a wonderful 2023-2024 school year!

In health and wellness,

Aimee M. Garrett, MSN, RN
 BSD Nurse Coordinator
 Professional School Nurse
 Office: 505-634-3405
 Email: agarrett@bsin.k12.nm.us

BSD Health Services Department

Michelle Aguilar, HA
 Bernadette Enriquez, RN
 Crystal Estes, HA
 Demi Estes, HA
 Aimee Garrett, RN
 Candy Henderson, HA
 Sabina Holguin-Macias, HA
 Mariah Miller, RN
 Cortney Miner-Preator, RN
 Nicole Olson, HA

Sources and References

- [NMAC § 6.12.2](#) (Public School Administration – Health and Safety)
- [NMAC § 7.5.2](#) (Immunization Requirement)
- [NMAC § 7.5.3](#) (Immunization Exemptions)
- [New Mexico School Health Manual](#)