



Interior Health

Dear Kindergarten Parent:

We would like to welcome your child to Kindergarten. Below are school health services provided by **Public Health Staff**.

Communicable Diseases (illness)

Call the school or Public Health Nurse if you think your child has a disease (or illness) such as whooping cough, influenza (flu), pink eye. These could spread to others. Washing hands often can stop many infections. Remind children not to share any item that may have saliva (spit) on it, such as cups and water bottles.

To learn more see the BC Centre for Disease Control's A Quick Guide to Common Childhood Diseases: http://www.bccdc.ca/NR/rdonlyres/8061A728-C969-4F38-9082-B0296EF2A128/0/Epid_GF_childhood_quickguide_may_09.pdf

Head Lice

Head lice are a bother but do not cause diseases. The school may send home information on how to prevent, check for and treat head lice. You can help by checking your child's head on a weekly basis. For treatment information see:

<http://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/SchoolHealth/HeadLice/>

Immunizations (shots)

Children over 4 years of age should get a Kindergarten booster for Diphtheria, Pertussis (whooping cough), Tetanus, and Polio, see <http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile15d.stm>, and a second dose of Varicella (Chicken Pox) see <http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile44b.stm>. Some children may require other shots. Call your local public health centre to ensure your child is up to date and to make an appointment; if your child was immunized elsewhere please provide a copy of your child's records. For more information on immunizations visit www.interiorhealth.ca or www.immunizebc.ca. For more HealthLinkBC File topics see www.HealthLinkBC.ca/healthfiles/ or your local public health centre.

Medical Alerts (serious medical conditions)

Let the school know as soon as possible if your child has a serious medical issue like anaphylaxis, allergies, seizures, diabetes or a heart condition. More information is available at your school. Your school Public Health Nurse is also available to provide information and support in the planning of a safe environment for students with serious medical conditions.

Screening Services

Since a child's eyes are constantly in use in the classroom and at play, undiagnosed vision concerns can seriously affect a child's abilities, success, and confidence at school. Children in Kindergarten will be screened during the school year by Interior Health Vision Screeners. More information will be sent home with your child closer to the screening dates.

The dental program provides kindergarten surveys every 3 years. A survey will not be done this school year. If your child is in dental pain, your school and/or school nurse can make a referral to the dental program. Referral forms can be found on the Interior Health Authority website at: <http://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/SchoolHealth/Pages/Dental.aspx>

Public Health does not routinely screen school age children for hearing. If you have concerns about your child's hearing the school public health nurse can make a referral for a hearing test at the nearest Public Health hearing clinic.

Special Health Care Needs

Nursing Support Services Coordinators are available to help develop care plans for students and provide training for caregivers. They also provide a liaison between school, family and other health professionals.

Public Health Records and Your Privacy

Public Health collects personal student information (e.g.name, Personal Health Number, address and birth date) to provide health services. We do this with the permission of the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), School Act and Public Health Act. This information is treated confidentially, kept secure, and only used for the purpose described above.

For More Information

For more school health information, please contact your local public health centre or visit <http://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/SchoolHealth/>

Public Health Centres IH West	Ashcroft	250-453-1940	Merritt	250-378-3400
	Barriere	250-672-5515	100 Mile House	250-395-7676
	Chase	250-679-1418	Williams Lake	250-302-5000
	Clearwater	250-674-3141		
	Kamloops	250-851-7300		
	Lillooet	250-256-1314		
	Logan Lake	250-378-3400		