

Dear Kindergarten Parent:

We would like to welcome your child to Kindergarten. Here is information for you about 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), or pink eye. Keep sick children home to recover. Washing hands often can stop many infections from spreading. Remind your child not to share any item that may have saliva (spit) on it, such as cups and water bottles.

Good resources for parents:

- Health Link BC www.HealthLinkBC.ca/healthfiles/ or call 811 to speak to a nurse
- The Quick Guide to Common Childhood Diseases from the BC Centre for Disease Control: http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Epid/Other/Epid_GF_childhood_quickguide_may_09.pdf

Head Lice

Head lice are a bother but do not cause disease. The school may send information home on how to prevent, check for and treat head lice. You can help by checking your child's head for lice. For prevention and treatment information see: <http://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/SchoolHealth/HeadLice/>

Immunizations (shots)

Children 4-6 years of age should get:

- A school entry booster dose of Diphtheria, Pertussis (whooping cough), Tetanus, and Polio <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/hlbc/files/documents/healthfiles/hfile15d.pdf> and
- A second dose of both Chickenpox (Varicella) and Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR) as a combined vaccine MMRV <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/hlbc/files/documents/healthfiles/hfile14e.pdf>

Call your local public health centre to ensure your child's immunizations are up to date and/or to make an appointment; if your child was immunized elsewhere please provide a copy of your child's records. For more information see: <http://www.immunizebc.ca> or <http://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/ChildrenYouth/Pages/Immunization.aspx>

Medical Alerts (serious medical conditions)

Let the school know if your child has a serious medical issue like anaphylaxis, allergies, seizures, diabetes or a heart condition. The school may have forms that need to be signed by your doctor. Your school Public Health Nurse is available to provide information and support in the planning of a safe environment for students with serious medical conditions.

Screening Services (vision, dental and hearing information)

Vision problems can 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.

Dental pain can make learning more difficult. Kindergarten children are given dental surveys every 3 years and referral letters are sent home at that time. At any time, if your child is in dental pain, you can make a referral to the Interior Health dental program. For contact information and more dental health information see the Interior Health 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 with special health needs and provide training for their school caregivers. They also provide a liaison between school, family and other health professionals. More information is found here:

<http://www.bchildrens.ca/our-services/sunny-hill-health-centre/our-services/nursing-support>

Public Health Records and Your Privacy

Public health programs collect 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 school health information, please contact your local public health centre or visit:

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

Public Health Centres

IH Central

Armstrong	250-546-4727	Princeton	250-295-4442
Enderby	250-838-2450	Revelstoke	250-814-2244
Kelowna	250-469-7070 ext 13301	Rutland	250-980-4825
Keremeos	250-499-3029	Salmon Arm	250-833-4100
Lumby	250-547-2164	Sicamous	250-836-4835
Oliver	250-498-5080	Sumerland	250-404-8050
Osoyoos	250-495-6433	Vernon	250-549-5721
Penticton	250-770-3434	West Kelowna	250-980-5150

IH West

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

IH East

Castlegar	250-365-7711	Kimberley	250-427-2215
Cranbrook	250-420-2207	Midway	250-449-2887
Creston	250-428-3873	Nakusp	250-265-3608
Fernie	250-423-8288	Nelson	250-505-7200
Grand Forks	250-443-3150	Salmo	250-357-9511
Golden	250-344-3001	Sparwood	250-425-2064
Invermere	250-342-2360	Trail	250-364-6219
Kaslo	250-353-2291		