

Hello there! Thanks for visiting the PAE Nursing Website! For more information about how the Nursing Office operates, please read below!

Welcome to the Nurse's Office Page at Park Ave Elementary School!



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Info about the PAE Nursing Office:

School nursing is a specialized practice of nursing that advances the well-being, academic success, and lifelong achievement and health of students. Keeping children healthy, safe, in school, and ready to learn should be a top priority for both healthcare and educational systems. It is the position of NASN* that school nurses play an essential role in keeping children healthy, safe, and ready to learn. The school nurse is a member of a unique discipline of professional nursing and is often the sole healthcare provider in an academic setting.

Here at Park Ave Elementary School, the nursing team consists of two full time nurses. The primary school nurse is Ms Stefanie Poletta. Ms. Poletta is a registered nurse who has worked in a variety of settings over the past 15 years with most of that time focused on children. Mrs. Alicia Bowes is the full time nurse assistant. She is also a registered nurse who comes with pediatric experience. Together, we care for the 700+ students here at Park Ave, and our utmost priority is the health and well being of each student. With our combined years of experience, we utilize our assessment skills and nursing judgment to determine what type of treatment each student needs while triaging, prioritizing and multitasking multiple students at a time.

Below is a generalized list of some of the situations we encounter throughout the day - it is not a comprehensive list, as we never know what situation will walk through the door! We typically see approximately 100 students per day, and treat minor and major concerns with skill and professionalism. We communicate with parents for minor injuries/illnesses only when our assessment findings indicate it may need follow up. For those health concerns that fall into the moderate or severe category, the nurse will reach out to the parent to report assessment findings and discuss needed follow up or dismissal plans.

We welcome communication with our student's parents, and appreciate any "heads up" information or "follow up" information you can provide us. We appreciate the opportunity to care for your students, and partner with you as parents/guardians to help your children be healthy and ready to learn while at school.

[Five Ways a School Nurse Benefits the School](#)

Minor Illness/Injury Examples (typically do not require a phone call/message home)

- Earache without fever
- Sore throat without fever
- Stomach Ache without fever/vomiting
- Headache without fever
- Minor scrape/abrasion/laceration (cut)
- Minor bump/bruise without swelling/bleeding
- Nosebleed
- Bruise
- Low grade temperature (under 99.9 degrees)
- Minor sprain/strain to joint with normal range of motion, minor swelling/bruising
- Diarrhea

Major Illness/Injury Examples (typically require a phone call home, and may require MD follow up and/or dismissal)

- Fever of 100.0 degrees or higher
- Vomiting
- Loss of consciousness
- Suspected Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Lice (live lice or nits < 1" from scalp - per district lice policy)
- Sore throat with fever, redness and/or exudate (pus) suspicious of strep throat
- Seizure activity
- Bump/bruise with significant swelling/bruising/bleeding
- Earache with drainage and/or fever
- Bee Stings
- Persistent Headache
- Cardiac Complaints
- Diabetic Concern
- Persistent Diarrhea (more than 3 episodes in one hour)
- Tick Bite
- Injury where nursing assessment indicates need for further evaluation by physician
- Severe sprain or suspected bone injury where nursing assessment indicates need for further evaluation by physician



Entrance Requirements

Massachusetts state law requires that all students who are entering school have a complete immunization record and a physical within the last year. See the table below for grade specific entrance requirements.

Entering Preschool

- Physical exam by MD within the last year
- Complete Immunization Record
 - 5 DTAP (diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis) vaccines
 - 3 Hepatitis B vaccines
 - 3 HIB vaccines
 - 4 Polio vaccines
 - 2 MMR (measles/mumps/rubella) vaccine
 - 2 Varicella (chicken pox)

Entering Kindergarten

- Physical exam within the last year
- Complete Immunization Record
 - 5 DTAP (diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis) vaccines
 - 3 Hepatitis B vaccines
 - 4 Polio vaccines (last one after age 4)
 - 2 MMR (measles/mumps/rubella) vaccine
 - 2 Varicella (chicken pox)
- Lead level results
- Hearing/Vision Screening by MD within the last year

Entering Grades 1-4

- Physical exam within the last year
- Complete Immunization Record
 - 5 DTAP (diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis) vaccines
 - 3 Hepatitis B vaccines
 - 4 Polio vaccines
 - 2 MMR (measles/mumps/rubella) vaccine
 - 2 Varicella (chicken pox)



Park Ave Illness/Injury Policy

Illness at home - Please check your child carefully before sending him/her to school if they do not feel well in the morning. Guidelines for when to keep your child home:

- Temperature of 100 or more. Your child must be fever free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school.
- Vomiting or diarrhea present during the past 24 hours. Your child must be free of vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.
- If on an antibiotic for a contagious illness (such as strep throat or pink eye), the child must be on the medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

Illness at school - If your child has an illness at school, they will be dismissed from school.

Injury - appropriate accommodations will be determined by the nursing office for students with injuries. If use of the elevator is needed, a doctor's note is required by the nursing office. Staff are required to travel in the elevator with elementary aged students for safety reasons.



Medication Policy

School Nurses can administer medications to students with a doctor's order (renewed annually), signed parent consent, and if the pharmacy labeled medication bottle is brought into school to the nurse **by an adult**. Students are not allowed to transport prescription or over the counter medications to school under any circumstances.

This link below is the consent that is needed to be turned into the Nursing Office. The top part is to be filled out by your doctor (or they can give their own doctor's order form). The lower portion is to be filled out by the parent to give permission to administer the medication.

[Medication Consent](#)



State Mandated Screenings

The Nursing Office at Park Ave performs the State Mandated Health Screenings throughout the year. If you would like your child to opt-out of this screening, please email the nursing office at any time. We are fortunate to have the assistance from community agencies to complete these screenings.

Screening	Grades Screened	Screenings Assisted by
Hearing Screening	1, 2, 3, 4	Baypath Nursing Students
Height/Weight	1 & 4	Baypath Nursing Students
Vision Screening	1, 2, 3, 4	Baypath Nursing Students & Gentex Vision Screeners

Head Lice

Head lice are a common community based problem in ages 3 to 11. Head lice are not dangerous and do not transmit disease, but they do spread easily. Head lice are most commonly spread by prolonged direct head-to-head contact with the hair of other people who have head lice. Head lice are less commonly spread through contact with a person's personal items, such as hair brushes and combs, hats, unwashed clothing, bedding or towels. Head lice are commonly spread within households.. Head lice do not fly or jump.

Recommendations regarding treatment of Head Lice in schools is followed at Park Ave Elementary School, and can be found here: [Head Lice: What Parents Need to Know - HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org/Head-Lice-What-Parents-Need-to-Know)

If your student has head lice, please contact the Nurse's Office at 508-943-4554 so the School Nurse can review treatment, answer questions and assist with follow up assessments.