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Notes from the Nurse

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Welcome to a new school year! Just a few reminders and healthful hints from your school nurse!

Medications: Whenever possible, medication should be scheduled during non-school hours. However, in the event your child needs medication during school hours, please be sure to have the “**Authorization to Administer Medication**” form completed and returned to the school nurse. For non-prescription medication, the form only needs filled out by parents/guardians. For prescription medications (any medication prescribed by a doctor), the form needs to be filled out by the physician and the parent/guardian. All medications (prescription and non-prescription) must be sent in the original container, sealed, and labeled with the student’s name. Prescribed antibiotics may be given with a physician’s note, but need to be in a properly labeled pharmacy container that can remain at the school.

Epi-Pens, Inhalers, and Injectable medications also require an authorization form. All medication must be hand-delivered to the nurse’s office by the parent/guardian. Students are not encouraged to be transporting medication to school in their backpacks.

Screenings: Students in 7th grade, as well as students who are new to the district, will have a hearing and vision screening performed this year. If there is an abnormal finding, parents will be notified by letter/email. Please contact the school nurse if you have any concerns regarding your student and the screening process.

Illness/Injury: If your student is ill or injured during school hours, he/she will be assessed as needed. For superficial abrasions, soap and water will be used for cleansing, as well as antibacterial ointment used as needed. You will not be contacted each time your child visits the school nurse, however, in the event your student appears to have a serious illness/injury, every effort will be made to notify you. Please be sure all phone numbers and health care information is kept current throughout the school year.

Students with fevers of 100 degrees or higher will be sent home immediately. Please keep students home from school until they remain fever-free (below 100 degrees) for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. Students with other symptoms of a possibly communicable disease will also be sent home from school at the discretion of the school nurse. If your student has been diagnosed with a possibly contagious illness, such as flu or strep throat, please notify the school nurse.

Lice: Head lice are a common community problem. They are not dangerous and do not transmit disease. The school nurse will notify parents of the student with lice or nits and recommend treatment. A letter will **not** be sent to other parents in that classroom unless an unusual clustering of active head lice cases (3 or more) is discovered in the classroom.

Food Allergies/Outside Food: Many students at North Union have food allergies. It is imperative that parents notify the school nurse and the child's teacher of any food allergies as soon as possible. In order to keep all students safe, we ask that parents **DO NOT** bring in outside food, other than lunches and healthy snacks for their own child's consumption. ***A food allergy can turn into a potentially life-threatening situation.*** Parents are encouraged to consider books, pencils, or other non-food items for birthdays, parties, and end of year celebrations.

Please contact me at lcox@nu-district.org or 740-943-1701 if you have any questions or concerns. Have a safe and healthy school year!

**Lindsay Cox, RN
District Health Care Provider**