Dear Parents,

Greeting from the health office and welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! Nurses and health office staff are planning for the upcoming school year and we want to communicate important information so families have time to plan and prepare. Please read the important information below about immunizations, action plans, and medication consent forms.

IMMUNIZATIONS:

Our Great Hearts nurses look forward to welcoming our students on campus and online via Great Heart Distance Learning program!

The State of Arizona Immunization Program relies on the school nurses to keep parents informed about immunizations throughout the summer months in preparation for the start of the school year.

Our incoming kindergarten students may need additional doses of immunizations prior to school starting and we would like to remind parents to check with your health care provider to be assured your child has all the necessary vaccines to begin the school year.

It is also a requirement for 6th grade students or those **11 years** and older to receive the Meningococcal and Tdap vaccine. The Meningococcal vaccine provides protection against the Meningitis Bacteria and the Tdap vaccine provides protection against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough).

As your child turns 11, we ask that you schedule an appointment with your healthcare provider to receive these vaccinations**. If they turn 11 prior to the 2020-2021 school year they will be required to have these vaccines to start the 6th grade.** You are welcome to email, fax, or mail a copy of the vaccinations administered to your school nurse or health office staff. Please call, email, or schedule an appointment with the school nurse if you have any questions regarding the vaccination requirements. Please check your child's school website for contact information for the school nurse or health office staff.

It is important to have an updated immunization record prior to your child starting school so that our Great Hearts schools are in compliance with Arizona's State mandates. This applies to those students returning to campus and those who continue with Great Hearts Distance Leaning.

ACTION PLANS AND MEDICATION CONSENT FORMS:

If your child has allergies, asthma, migraines, or seizures and requires an action plan for school, please fill out the appropriate action plan form(s) below. Action plans are usually indicated for children who exhibit mild to severe symptoms with exposure to an allergen and need medications such as Benadryl, Epi-Pen, or Auvi-Q, or children who need medications for the treatment of asthma, migraines or seizures. If you are unsure if your child needs and action plan, please speak with your child's healthcare provider. Please print and fill out the form (s) below

and bring them to your child's health care provider to be completed and signed. Students continuing with Great Hearts Distance Leaning do not need to provide action plan forms and medications unless they plan on returning to on campus learning. Please note the following import information about action plans and medications:

- Medications must be in their original container, labeled with the student's name and dosing information.
- We cannot accept expired medications.
- Portions of the action plans require a healthcare provider's signature. We cannot accept plans without a provider's signature.
- An adult must drop off medications.

Links to action plan

Food Allergy Action Plan

Asthma Action Plan

Migraine Action Plan

Seizure Action Plan

Medication Consent Forms need to be updated yearly. Medication Consent Forms are for medications that must be administered at school by health office staff.

Link to Medication Consent Form:

Medical Information and Consent to Dispense Medications

"SCREENING FOR ILLNESS STARTS AT HOME"

In partnership with parents, potential Covid-19 Positive cases can be minimized in the schools by closely observing your child for signs and symptoms of Covid-19. If your child is not feeling well, take their temperature prior to coming to school. If their temperature is 100.0 or greater, keep your child home. In addition, students that manifest the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose should remain home and a medical professional may need to be contacted.

MASKS :

Masks are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. Masks must fit properly to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff.

- Fits snugly but comfortably against the side of the face and upper cheeks
- Is secured with ties or ear loops
- Includes multiple layers of fabric, not a thin later such as a gaiter
- Allows for breathing without restriction
- Masks with exhalation valves or vents should NOT be worn to help prevent the person wearing the mask from spreading COVID-19 to others.
- Secure the mask by pinching the mask at the nose to eliminate gapping and possibility of falling off. Adult masks may be too large for a younger child.

Great Hearts health office staff will be in further communication about when and how to drop off medication(s) and supplies once a firm return to school date has been established.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's school nurse. Again, we want to support our families and look forward to school starting and welcoming your children back.

With gratitude,

Great Hearts Nurses and Health Office Staff