

# **Lacey Township School District**

## **Nursing Services Plan**

**2024/2025 School Year**



### **Nursing Service Plan**

Certified school nurses in the Lacey Township School District fulfill a multitude of roles within the scope of their nursing practice. Our ultimate goal is to keep students healthy, in school and ready to learn. Students attend school with a wide variety of acute and chronic health conditions. The school nurse is the most appropriate person to oversee the coordinated school health program and is responsible for identifying actual and potential health problems that can impact health and learning. School nurses function as direct nursing care providers, student advocates, communicators, counselors, educators, investigators, managers and recorders.

### **Nursing Care Provider**

School nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the health, education and long term achievement of students. The school nurse is concerned with the physical, emotional, psychological, and social well-being of each student. School nurses provide direct nursing care, promote health and safety, and facilitate positive responses to growth and development issues. Registered professional nurses utilize the nursing process to plan and implement care for their students. School nurses are concerned with the development and implementation of Individual Health Care and Emergency Care Plans for each student with an acute or chronic health issue.

### **Student Advocate**

With the best interest of the student in mind, the certified school nurse acts as a child advocate by working closely with parents, staff and the community to ensure that all health needs and accommodations are identified and met. Referrals to various health agencies are made as needed.

### **Communicator**

School nurses utilize a multitude of approaches to disseminate vital information to students, parents, staff, physicians, CST, I&RS, and community health resources. Communication methods include personal meetings, letters, telephone conferences, e-mails, flyers, web pages and bulletin boards.

### **Counselor**

School nurses serve as counselors to students, staff and parents in the areas of growth and development, personal and psychosocial issues, health and safety, abuse, substance abuse, bullying, financial issues and family dynamics. The nurse works closely with the guidance counselor and social worker.

### **Educator**

Formal and informal teaching occurs continuously throughout the school year. The certified school nurse provides formal staff education on topics such as seizure disorder, diabetes, asthma management, anaphylaxis and blood borne pathogens. Informal teaching takes place on a continual one-on-one basis during the delivery of nursing care to students and staff. Parent education is facilitated via telephone, internet, flyers and personal meetings.

### **Investigator**

The nurse works closely with physicians, counselors, teachers, custodians, and health agencies to identify and address actual and potential environmental concerns, safety issues, communicable disease patterns, and health practices. Monitoring of absentee patterns and influenza surveillance are an additional responsibility.

### **Manager**

The school nurse's primary duties as manager are to triage and prioritize. In addition to daily routines, the nurse must be ready at all times to manage any emergency and delegate appropriate tasks within the scope of their nursing practice.

### **Recorder**

Appropriate documentation of nursing care is essential and legal records must be maintained on each student. School health services are documented on student health records in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2. Daily logs, screenings, immunizations, medications, and written communications from parent and physicians are diligently recorded and maintained. State and federal reports are generated, recorded and maintained.

\*The certified school nurse holds a current license as a registered nurse from the N.J. State Board of Nursing and an educational certificate for school nurse or school nurse/non-instructional pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-3.2 and N.J.A.C. 6A:9-13.3 & 4. The certified school nurse holds a current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation/Automated External Defibrillator certification as issued by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.

### **Nursing duties**

Direct nursing care  
Medication administration  
Diabetes management  
Asthma management  
Vision, hearing, BP and pulse screenings  
Scoliosis screenings  
BMI screenings  
Development of IHCP & ECP  
Assist with physical exams  
CPR certified  
Staff training in diabetes, asthma, seizure and anaphylaxis management  
Staff training on Heimlich Maneuver  
Train delegates on Epi-pen and Glucagon administration and update periodically  
Teach health topics (anti-tobacco, hand washing, heart health)  
Supervises other uncertified RN's  
Cover other schools as needed  
Pediculosis monitoring  
Attend 504, I&RS and CST meetings  
Attend nurse staff meetings

### **Non-nursing duties**

Monitor attendance  
Numerous daily calls to parents  
Stock health office---order supplies, check expiration dates regularly  
Update health office forms  
Check equipment regularly-(AED, oxygen)  
Staff school trips  
Data recording into Real Time (Daily student visits, medical history, medications)  
Review all student and staff emergency cards  
Complete monthly reports  
State and Federal reports (OSHA, TB reporting)  
Co-organize "Gift giving" tree for approximately 50 families  
Attend parent conferences  
Attend Back to School Night and MARE.  
Assist with Home Instruction arrangements and follow up  
Sanitary inspection of facilities  
Review of immunization records for completeness  
Workmen's Compensation record keeping

In order to plan, care for, and monitor students with special health care needs, the certified school nurse will assign each student to a level of care based on the following categories:

### **Nursing Dependent**

Nursing dependent students require skilled nursing care for survival. Many are dependent on technological devices and require one-on-one care. Without the availability of constant nursing care, the student will suffer irreversible damage or death. A student with a spinal cord injury on a ventilator is an example of this care category.

### **Medically Fragile**

Every student in this category requires a full-time nurse in the building. These children face the possibility of life-threatening emergencies daily, requiring the judgment and skill of a professional nurse. All ancillary personnel, such as aides and bus drivers must be trained to intervene in an emergency for these students. Students with unstable diabetes, severe asthma, tracheostomy care, and severe epilepsy are examples.

### **Medically Complex**

These students have complex or unstable physical and/or psychological-emotional issues that require close monitoring and daily treatments by the certified school nurse. Life-threatening events are unpredictable. Students with anaphylaxis, cancer, complex mental disorders, and severe ADHD are included in this category. Delegation requires a trained, willing and competent staff member and must be supervised closely by the school nurse.

### **Health Concerns**

Students in this category have uncomplicated and predictable physical and/or emotional conditions. Occasional monitoring is required. Children with migraines, dental disease, and orthopedic conditions fall under this heading.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Population size, severity of health concerns and time requirements necessary to meet individual student needs are critical factors in determining staffing. The attached summary of data from the individual district schools support the continued need for full time certified nurses in each building. The acuity of student medical and psychological needs, specifically “Medically Fragile” and “Medically Complex” students, and an increase in the number of children with life-threatening allergies, diabetes, severe emotional problems and asthma reflect the need for continued nursing services in each building.

**Nursing Services: Lacey Township Schools  
Severity Coding by School**

|                                       | <b>LTHS</b> | <b>LTMS</b> | <b>MPS</b> | <b>CCS</b> | <b>LHS</b> | <b>FRS</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Enrollment</b>                     | <b>1123</b> | <b>839</b>  | <b>597</b> | <b>437</b> | <b>464</b> | <b>483</b> |
| <b>Level 1:<br/>Nursing Dependent</b> | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>   | <b>2</b>   | <b>0</b>   |
| <b>Level 2:<br/>Medically Fragile</b> | <b>13</b>   | <b>2</b>    | <b>4</b>   | <b>6</b>   | <b>7</b>   | <b>13</b>  |
| <b>Level 3:<br/>Medically Complex</b> | <b>108</b>  | <b>55</b>   | <b>1</b>   | <b>77</b>  | <b>133</b> | <b>16</b>  |
| <b>Level 4:<br/>Health Concerns</b>   | <b>149</b>  | <b>204</b>  | <b>32</b>  | <b>229</b> | <b>126</b> | <b>96</b>  |

**Nursing Assignments by School**

The Lacey Township Schools District is composed of six buildings. A certified school nurse is assigned to each school.

**Nursing Assignment Plan**

| <b>School</b>               | <b>Grades</b>      | <b>Enrollment</b> | <b>Certified Nurse</b>   |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Lacey High School</b>    | <b>9-12</b>        | <b>1123</b>       | <b>Terri DiGaetano</b>   |
| <b>Lacey Middle School</b>  | <b>6-8</b>         | <b>839</b>        | <b>Kristen Patterson</b> |
| <b>Mill Pond Elementary</b> | <b>Pre K and K</b> | <b>597</b>        | <b>Gabrielle Buttich</b> |
| <b>Cedar Creek School</b>   | <b>1-5</b>         | <b>437</b>        | <b>Ashley Mayberry</b>   |
| <b>Lanoka Harbor School</b> | <b>1-5</b>         | <b>464</b>        | <b>Alicia Crandall</b>   |
| <b>Forked River School</b>  | <b>1-5</b>         | <b>482</b>        | <b>Gemma Ward</b>        |

*Components of the Nursing Services Plan for the Lacey Township School District are aligned with N.J.A.C. 6A: 16-2, 1:8(b)2.*

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Dr. Thomas Sargent DO  
School Physician

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Joseph R. Bond  
Director of Special Services

❖ Original signatures on file in the Business Office.