

## Summer Reminders from the School Nurse

**Medication Pick-up:** Parents of students who have medication stored in the health room should pick it up by the last day of school, June 18. All medication (pills, Epi-Pens, inhalers, etc.) not picked up will be discarded. Please plan ahead to pick medication up so it is not wasted! School nurses will not be available after June 18 to return medication to families.

**Medication Order Reminder:** All medication orders expire at the end of the school year. If you are visiting your child's health care provider during the summer, consider requesting a new medication order for your child. All medication, prescription or over-the-counter, requires an order. The Medication Permission Form and the Medication Policy are both available online at [www.newtonma.gov/schoolhealth](http://www.newtonma.gov/schoolhealth)

**West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease Prevention:** Mosquito and tick-borne diseases like West Nile Virus and Lyme disease occur in Newton residents. Take steps to avoid getting sick!

- Mosquito repellent not only works for mosquitoes, but helps repel ticks as well. Use a repellent with DEET, and follow label instructions for concentrations appropriate for children.
- Avoid being outdoors during peak mosquito hours, particularly once West Nile Virus has been detected in the mosquito population.
- Remove containers around your home (tires, kid pools, pots, tarps) that could allow mosquitoes to breed.
- Check your body for ticks after being outdoors and remove them immediately to avoid disease transmission.

**Shoo the flu!** Seasonal influenza vaccine will be offered this fall during the school day to students and employees. The vaccine will be available to all students in Kindergarten through grade 12, by parental consent only. Consent and screening forms will be posted at [www.newtonma.gov/flu](http://www.newtonma.gov/flu) by early September, in preparation for the fall clinics.

The flu clinic date for Newton South High School will be November 13. Forms (available in September) will be due to the school nurse two school days prior. This schedule is confirmed unless the flu vaccine supply is delayed, in which case the school nurse will notify families of an alternative date once the vaccine arrives.

Have a happy and healthy summer!

Gail Kramer and Karleen Kiritsy