

NSBSD Cover memo

School Health Service Report Year 2023-2024

Dear, North Slope Borough School District School Board of Education.

As the district School Nurse, I am submitting a report for the 2023-2024 school year. This report includes immunization compliance percentages for all 11 schools, Ipalook elementary office visit statistics, BRW school screening numbers, medication administration numbers, and my recommendations.

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NSBSD School Nurse

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NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Health Service Report Year 2023-2024

School Nurse: Bertrand Britt. R.N. (full-time)

Nursing Assistant (full-time): Luz Lelis, paraprofessional Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP), former C.N.A.

Number of students on Slope: 1914

NSBSD Immunization compliance: 99%

Number of official NSBSD health employees on Slope: 2

School Name: Ipalook Elementary School (IPK)

Number of enrolled students: 527

Number of healthcare employees in the building: 1 licensed staff and 1 staff member with UAP privileges.

98% Immunization compliance

School Name: Hopson Middle School (HMS)

Number of enrolled students: 222

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 0

100% Immunization compliance

School Name: Barrow High School (BHS)

Number of enrolled students: 266

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 1 Secretary with UAP privileges

100% Immunization compliance

School Name: Kiita Learning Community (KLC)

Number of enrolled students: 56

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 3 Staff with UAP privileges.

100% Immunization compliance

School Name: (AKP) Nunamiut School

Number of enrolled students: 106

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 1 Secretary with UAP privileges

100% Immunization compliance

School Name: (AIN) Alak School

Number of enrolled students: 147

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 2 Secretaries with UAP privileges

100% Immunization compliance

School Name: (PHO) Tikigaq School

Number of enrolled students: 231

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 0

98% Immunization compliance

School Name: (NUI) Nuiqsut Trapper School

Number of enrolled students: 150

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 0

99% Immunization compliance

School Name: (PIZ) Kali School

Number of enrolled students: 92

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 4

100% Immunization compliance

School Name: (ATQ) Meade River School

Number of enrolled students: 91

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 0

99% Immunization compliance

School Name: (KAK) Harold Kaveolook School

Number of enrolled students: 58

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 1

100% Immunization compliance

School Name: Qatqiññiagvik & CTE

Number of enrolled students: Unknown

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 1

Immunization Compliance Project: The immunizations for our district remain in Power School. Our goal was to have more than 95% district compliance; currently, we are 99%. The school secretaries are responsible for entering their schools' immunizations, and then Luz and I finished the remainder by gathering data from Vactrak to update school records. Immunization

compliance letters are issued to parents, and nursing begins requesting exclusions of students throughout the year for non-compliance. Most parents complied with the immunization requirements before exclusion was necessary, but in some cases, many letters and phone calls were needed before compliance was obtained.

All of the health numbers below are IPK-specific. The medical coverage and documentation level provided at IPK are unavailable at other sites. The nurse is available by phone and email to the village schools; the nurse can drive to BHS, KLC, HMS, and the CTE program for emergency on-site response.

IPK health office visits:

Number of health office visits: 5,411 total
Number of injury events: 1,472 of 5,411
Number of illness events: 2,329 of 5,411
Number of other health events: 1,762 of 5,411
Number of med admin visits: 364 of 5,411
Average 31 nurse visits per student contact day

Frequent events:

CC body impact: 858
Problem stomachache: 800
Headache: 427
IPK Medication Administration: 364
Assistance/Selfcare-incontinence-urinary: 320
Fatigue/sleepiness: 363
Behavior issue: 324
CC abrasion/scrape/scratch: 229
Skin problem: 215
Nutrition hungry: 186
Assistance/Selfcare-incontinence-bowel: 85

Outcomes from office visits:

Sent back to class: 4,820
Other: 430
Discharged to home: 106
Medical referrals: 15
Discharge to Hospital: 4
EMT calls: 3

IPK Medication Administration: 364

Liothyronine:145
Lisdexamfetamine: 90
Motrin Children's: 44
Albuterol: 20
Tylenol: 17
Other: 48

Top three student-specific visits:

1. Student #22: 350 visits logged for toileting assistance.
2. Student #119: 103 visits were logged for behavioral needs; changes in routine cause transition problems, but the student uses the nurse's station to reset.
3. Student #73: 79 visits logged for behavioral needs; frequently comes to nurse when the student desires a break from school work.

Synopsis of the nurse visit numbers: Our rates of discharges to home related to illness at school continue to remain significantly lower than the previous school year. The OTC medication administration numbers have also been reduced dramatically compared to last year. Body impacts, stomachaches, headaches and med administration comprise 45% of the nursing visits; Toileting, fatigue, and behavior make up another 20% of the nursing visits.

Types of conditions that require medications at school: ADHD, Hypothyroidism, and severe skin conditions. Fever, pain, allergic reactions, or stomach discomfort sometimes require as-needed medications when allowed by the parents. Emergency medications for children with anaphylactic reactions or breathing disorders are kept at the nurse's station for emergency administration.

Contagious conditions: After the holidays, colds, flu, stomach bugs, and COVID-19 circulated through the community. My observations are anecdotal, but many illnesses through the spring seemed to last longer than usual, with several of these URIs, stomach bugs, strains of Influenza, and Strep circulating through the schools. State-supplied COVID-19 home kits were provided to AKP and PIZ after the villages traveled for basketball. I believe there was an outbreak of impetigo at IPK, but I never got confirmation from SSMH or PHN.

Lice screenings: Back-to-school lice screening was done at IPK. HMS requested a mass screening, but nursing did parent-directed mass broadcasts to encourage parental self-screenings at home instead.

Filed reports and care plans: 48

- Incident/Accident reports written: 29
- Anaphylaxis care plans: 12
- Ostomy care plan: 0
- Seizure care plan: 0
- Asthma care plan: 7
- OCS reports by nursing: 2

Nursing visits off IPK campus: 23**SOA Required Screenings: 245**

State-required school screenings for 1st, 3rd, 7th, and 10th grades.

- BHS: 70
- HMS: 69
- Kiita: 8
- IPK: 98
- PHO: Completed by Manillaq, hearing screenings were not done
- PIZ: Completed by NSB PHN, hearing screenings were not done
- ATQ: Completed by NSB PHN
- AIN: Completed by NSB PHN
- AKP: Completed by Fairbanks PHN, vision and hearing only
- NUI: Completed by NSB PHN
- KAK: Completed by NSB PHN, hearing screenings were not done

Referrals were sent to parents for any failed screenings.

Non-State of Alaska required screenings (SPED H&V screenings): 28

- BHS: 1
- HMS: 4
- IPK: 17
- KLC: 6

Food Allergies: IPK has ten students with emergency response med orders for Epi; BHS has one student, and HMS has one student with Epi medications. Allergy lists for all schools were completed and list forwarded to the pertinent staff in each school. I imported allergy lists for all schools into Google Docs for dietary and staff access as needed. Parents can call to provide allergy updates, and the Google doc is changed immediately. There were two significant allergy incidents this school year:

- One incident involved a child eating school-supplied “honey nut cheerios.”
- Another incident involved the same child eating “Nutella” chocolate spread.

The cereal responsible for the allergy incident was removed from all NSBSD schools, and the parent accountable for letting their child bring Nutella was asked not to provide it any longer.

Community outreach: Nursing collaborated with NSB PHN for a "school district employee flu clinic." Nursing provided influenza vaccines at IPK, BHS, KLC, HMS, CO2, and the district central office. In total, 64 Influenza vaccines were administered to district staff.

Staff training: Nursing facilitated getting 22 NSBSD staff trained in adult/child first aid and CPR through Iļisaġvik College.

Off-site medication administrations reported:

Good reporting, low reporting, nothing reported

- BHS: 431
- HMS: 228
- KLC: 89
- PHO: 0
- PIZ: 168
- ATQ: 40
- AIN: 255
- AKP: 0
- NUI: 0
- KAK: 22

Recommendations: The level of medical supervision provided to IPK can be extended to the ten other NSBSD school sites. IPK nursing utilizes SNAP, an electronic health records (EHR) system. SNAP could be used at all 11 locations to document health-related interactions. In my opinion, more licensed health staff would be required for the NSBSD to provide more comprehensive medical coverage for the other school sites.

If trained unlicensed school staff were financially incentivized, they may be more inclined to take a more active role in their healthcare duties. Having each school site achieve at least one individual compliant as unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP), as defined by AS 08.68.805, would be ideal. Per AS 08.68.805, school employees are only legally authorized to administer medications with the appropriate consent, documentation, and licensed oversight.

Plan: It's crucial to underscore the significance of the medication administration guidelines for the Utqiagvik-based and outlying village schools. The school nurse directly oversees the Utqiagvik-based schools, while the school principals will be responsible for ensuring medication policy adherence in the village schools. Nursing will prepare a comprehensive medication administration presentation to the school principals and secretaries at the start of the school

year. As we observe improvements in medication administration policy adherence, we may consider gradually introducing EHR duties to the other sites.

Closing: Working as an NSBSD school nurse is both enjoyable and demanding. The current student-to-healthcare staffing ratio is the most challenging while providing a high level of service and accuracy in compliance with state standards, NSBSD, and desired parental expectations.

Thank you for the opportunity to help serve the community, Bertrand Britt R.N., NSBSD School Nurse.