

School Health Service Report
Year 2023-2024
1st Semester

Bertrand Britt, ASN RN

NSBSD School Nurse

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NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Health Service Report

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

Nursing Assistant (full-time): Luz Lelis, paraprofessional Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP)

Number of students on Slope: 1961

NSBSD Immunization compliance: 94%

Number of official NSBSD health employees on Slope: 2

School Name: Ipalook Elementary School (IPK)

Number of enrolled students: 525

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: 223

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 0

99% 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

97% Immunization compliance

School Name: Kiita Learning Community (KLC)

Number of enrolled students: 55

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

93% Immunization compliance

School Name: (AKP) Nunamiut School

Number of enrolled students: 102

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 0

90% Immunization compliance

School Name: (AIN) Alak School

Number of enrolled students: 152

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

93% Immunization compliance

School Name: (PHO) Tikigaq School

Number of enrolled students: 252

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 0

84% Immunization compliance

School Name: (NUI) Nuiqsut Trapper School

Number of enrolled students: 164

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 0

94% Immunization compliance

School Name: (PIZ) Kali School

Number of enrolled students: 90

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 0

91% Immunization compliance

School Name: (ATQ) Meade River School

Number of enrolled students: 79

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 0

96% Immunization compliance

School Name: (KAK) Harold Kaveolook School

Number of enrolled students: 58

Number of assistive healthcare employees in the building: 0

96% Immunization compliance

Immunization Compliance Project: The state-supplied self-image program is now operational but not used by the NSBSD. The immunizations for our district remain in Power School. We aimed to have more than 95% compliance district compliance; currently, we are 94%. The school secretaries are responsible for entering their schools' immunizations, and then Luz and I finished the remainder. Immunization compliance letters have been issued to parents, and nursing will begin requesting the exclusion of students at the beginning of January for non-compliance.

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

IPK health office visits:

Number of health office visits: 2,287 total
Number of injury events: 682 of 2,287
Number of illness events: 892 of 2,287
Number of other health events: 775 of 2,287
Number of med admin visits: 182 of 2,287
Average 28 nurse visits per student contact day

Frequent events:

CC body impact: 354
Problem stomachache: 270
IPK Medication Administration: 182
Assistance/Selfcare-incontinence-urinary: 158
Fatigue/sleepiness: 154
Behavior issue: 149
Problem headache: 141
CC abrasion/scrape/scratch: 118
Skin problem: 102
Nutrition hungry: 76
Referred by teacher: 30

Outcomes from office visits:

Sent back to class: 2200
Discharged to home: 57
EMT calls: 0
Discharge to Hospital: 2
Medical referrals: 15
Other: 15

IPK Medication Administration: 182

Liothyronine: 70
Lisdexamfetamine: 72
Motrin Children's: 14
Topical salve: 11
Other total: 10

Top three student-specific visits:

- 1) Student #21: 170 visits logged for toileting assistance.
- 2) Student #128: 71 visits logged for behavioral needs; frequently needs a quiet environment to eat lunch.
- 3) Student #105: 36 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 have decreased significantly—teacher-specific referrals to see the nurse have declined. The OTC medication administration numbers have also been reduced dramatically compared to last year. Body impacts, stomachaches and med administration comprise 35% 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: There are no significant outbreaks of note to be reported. The typical colds, flu, and stomach bugs were circulating, but parents helped mitigate the spread by keeping children home when severely ill. The North Slope vaccine rates continue to protect our community from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Lice screenings: Back-to-school lice screening was done at IPK, but no classroom-specific screenings were performed. HMS requested screenings, but nursing did parent-directed mass broadcasts to encourage parental self-screenings at home.

Filed reports and care plans: 24

Incident/Accident reports written: 11
Anaphylaxis care plans: 8
Ostomy care plan: 0
Seizure care plan: 0
Asthma care plan: 5
OCS reports by nursing: 2

Nursing visits off IPK campus: 14

SOA Required Screenings: 98

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

- BHS: 0
- HMS: 0
- Kiita: 0
- IPK: 98
- PHO: Completed by Manillaq, hearing screenings were not done
- PIZ: Completed by NSB PHN
- ATQ: Completed by NSB PHN
- AIN: Completed by NSB PHN
- AKP: Completed by Fairbanks PHN, vision and hearing only
- NUI: Scheduled but not completed
- KAK: Completed by NSB PHN

Non-State of Alaska required screenings (SPED H&V screenings): 24

- BHS: 0
- HMS: 4
- IPK: 10
- KLC: 6

Food Allergies: IPK has six 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. IPK, HMS, KLC, and BHS allergy lists were imported into a Google Doc for dietary and staff access as needed. Parents can call to provide allergy updates, and the Google doc is changed immediately. One significant allergy incident was reported regarding a child eating "honey nut cheerios," the student had a tree nut allergy. The cereal brand responsible for the incident was removed from all NSBSD schools.

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 Iñisaġvik College.

Off-site med admin reported:

- BHS: 162
- HMS: 130

- KLC: 45
- PHO: 0 Nothing reported
- PIZ: 85
- ATQ: 0 Nothing reported
- AIN: 209
- AKP: 0 Nothing reported
- NUI: 0 Nothing reported
- KAK: 0 Nothing reported

Recommendations: The level of medical supervision provided to IPK should be extended to the ten other NSBSD school sites. IPK nursing utilizes a program called SNAP that serves as an electronic health records (EHR) system. An attempt was made to use Power School as an EHR, but Power School needs to be adapted further to be user-friendly. SNAP could be used at all 11 locations as the primary EHR. Whether it be Power School or SNAP, an EHR should be utilized at all district sites.

Non-licensed staff may need to be financially incentivized to take on a more active healthcare role in each school (become UAPs); having each school site achieve at least one individual compliant with the requirements to be privileged as a UAP has been challenging. Per state regulations, school employees are only legally authorized to administer medications with the appropriate consent, documentation, and licensed oversight.

I recommend the district increase licensed professional-level healthcare staffing district-wide.

Closing: Working as the NSBSD school nurse is both enjoyable and very challenging. I can sufficiently provide the time and professional resources necessary to cover IPK adequately. Unfortunately, I do not have the time or resources available, to provide for the other schools and villages sufficiently. After being in this role for over a year, I have learned the demands of the position and the district as a whole. I believe the NSBSD is understaffed in terms of healthcare employees. The current student-to-healthcare staffing ratio is not sustainable while providing the high level of service and accuracy in compliance with state standards, NSBSD, and parental expectations that are desired.

I recommend that the NSBSD post the district nurse position and attempt to recruit a nurse for the coming school year who may be better suited for the demands of this position. I will gladly maintain my role for a reasonable amount of time and train a replacement nurse if desired.

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