

Welcome to the 20-21 School Year! And what an odd year it is. I am hoping all of the children in our community remain in good health, particularly our Garton Students.

My name is Kathleen Wells and I am the Garton School Nurse. I have been with DMPS since 1993 and at Garton since 2005.

I am available if you have concerns or questions about your student's health. My email is Kathleen.wells@dmschools.org . And if you call the school number (242-8408) and leave a message, I will get back to you as soon as possible. I am unsure of what my office time will look like; there are instructions and other student contact out in the building I will be responsible for, but I want to assure you, I will make every effort to make contact with you with what answers or information I can find.

In regards to regular well child care: Medical professionals are advocating for children to continue to get regular medical care as needed for well child check ups and immunizations. Many clinics will have "Well" appointments set up in the morning with the afternoon reserved for "Sick" visits. Contact your doctor to determine what their protocol is.

Immunizations are still needed to attend school, even if your student is in a virtual setting. There are rare circumstances when immunizations can be waived. These situations would be re-evaluated in light of community health emergencies as needed.

In guidance given by the Iowa Department of Public Health,

"American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) strongly supports the continued provision of health care for children during the COVID-19 pandemic. The AAP has set forth the below recommendations (including)

- Consistent with previous guidance, all well-child care should occur in person whenever possible and within the child's medical home where continuity of care may be established and maintained."*

From the Centers for Disease Control,

"Routine vaccination is an essential preventive care service for children, adolescents, and adults (including pregnant women) that should not be delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

All vaccines due or overdue should be administered according to the recommended [CDC immunization schedules](#) during (the doctor) visit, unless a specific contraindication exists, to provide protection as soon as possible as well as minimize the number of healthcare visits needed to complete vaccination.

Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons age 6 months and older to decrease morbidity and mortality caused by influenza."

Again, welcome to the school year! I am planning on moving forward with a positive outlook and work on giving everyone my best 😊