



Houghton-Portage Township Elementary School Wellness Program  
203 W. Jacker Ave, Houghton, MI 49931 (906) 482-0456



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is a School Wellness Program (SWP)?**

The HES School Wellness Program (SWP) is a collaboration between Upper Great Lakes Family Health (UGL) and Houghton-Portage Township Elementary School, with funding support from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The SWP provides services to promote academic success by helping students achieve their best possible physical and mental health status. The SWP supports student health with the availability of onsite nursing and behavioral health services. Parents and youth are important partners, and their involvement is not only encouraged but is viewed as a core component of the SWP.

### **Who can access the HES School Wellness Program?**

The targeted patient population for services at the HES School Wellness Program are students who are enrolled at HES Elementary School. The SWP would maintain the same security requirements outlined by the school's security protocols to always maintain school security.

### **What types of services are offered?**

The HES School Wellness Program is aimed at supporting student health with the availability of onsite nursing services staff by a full time Registered Nurse and onsite behavioral health services staffed by a full time Licensed Master Social Worker/Licensed Professional Counselor.

School Wellness Nurse Care includes, but not limited to:

- Screening/Nursing Assessments
- First Aid for Minor Injuries
- Chronic Care Interventions
- Case Findings
- Hearing and Vision Screening
- Blood Pressure Monitoring
- Blood Glucose Monitoring
- Case Management
- Dispensing over the counter (OTC) Medications under Medical Director Standing Orders
- Immunization Assessment (review or record)
- Point of Care Lab Testing (upon request/billable service)
- Referrals to other needed primary care and specialty medical services.
- Provides health education to students, parents, and staff.
- Collaboration with the student's primary care provider (as needed).

School Wellness Behavioral Health Care includes:

- Individual counseling visits for students
- Family counseling for students and parents
- Group counseling



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### **How does the SWP provide care to students with chronic conditions?**

The SWP nurse can provide support to students with chronic conditions that could include training staff, testing and emergency medication administration. Standing orders are put in place to help manage students with chronic conditions (i.e., asthma, diabetes, allergies, seizures). Collaboration with the PCP/specialist and the parent/guardian needs to occur for individual students to obtain a students care plan.

### **My child has a primary care provider (PCP) outside of Upper Great Lakes Family Health. Can they still be seen by the RN or LMSW?**

Yes! Care at the HES School Wellness Program is available for all students regardless of being an established patient of Upper Great Lakes Family Health. If your child is an established patient elsewhere but sees the RN or LMSW through the HES School Wellness Program, we are more than happy to send this information upon request (with signed release) to your child's primary care provider/specialist. Additionally, we can help coordinate care based on parent/guardian preference for referrals/needed services to a facility of choice.

### **Will you treat my child without my knowledge?**

Consent for services is required for all students seeking care and forms will be provided to parents/guardians prior to the start of the school year. If a student seeks care and a consent is not on file, the parent/guardians are contacted by the school to obtain a verbal consent. The SWP staff will use their judgement (example: sending a note home with a child verse a phone call for a band-aid) unless otherwise indicated to staff.

Please note, in the case of an emergency and/or crisis intervention, a consent is not required.

### **Am I going to be billed every time my child seeks services?**

School Nursing Services provided by the RN are not billable services and you will not be charged for your student seeking care by the RN.

Behavioral Health Services by the LMSW are billable services. These are scheduled visits made by the parent/guardian (if under the age of 18) and insurance information will be obtained prior to the scheduled visit. Applicable copays do apply, but no fees are required at the school site. Our staff can also assist students and their families with Medicaid Enrollment and/or Upper Great Lakes Family Health Sliding Fee Discount Program. No student will be turned away based on inability to pay.