

Union 69 – Appleton Village School

Guidelines for the use of crutches/orthopedic devices at school

Students who require the use of crutches/orthopedic devices in school following an injury or surgery should report to the Health Office upon return to school. A note from the treating physician is required for the student to use crutches at school. This note will be kept in the student's confidential health record in the Health Office. The note must include:

- Physician (or medical provider) diagnosis of reason student needs crutches.
- Physician (or medical provider) statement of how long student will need to use crutches.
- Physician (or medical provider) order to be excused from PE, recess, sports, etc.
- Physician (or medical provider) statement of length of time student activity will be restricted.

Proper crutch walking should be taught at the provider office before a student returns to school. The School Nurse will review the use of crutches in school with the student, and assess the student's ability to safely travel school hallways. Safety will be stressed including hallways, entrances, floors, stairs, transportation, and seasonal issues. A safety plan will be put in place to ensure student safety during emergency evacuation. Accommodations will be determined on an individual basis for each student. These accommodations may include, assistance with books or use of backpack, early dismissal from class, assistance in hallways between classes, change of seating assignment in the classroom, change of seating on the bus, and/or first on/last off bus. Additional accommodations may include: medication, icing, elevation, and/or clothing alterations.

In the even that a student is not able to meet or comply with the above criteria, the School Nurse, Principal, Parents, and any other involved staff will meet to discuss other viable options/accommodations to allow the student to access their education.