

ILLNESS POLICY

Health Services Guidelines

Deciding when to keep your child home from school can be difficult. When a child is sick and needs to stay at home, parents should contact the school and describe the illness and symptoms. If a medical provider makes a specific diagnosis (such as strep throat, conjunctivitis or chicken pox), let school staff know.

There are three reasons to keep (exclude) sick children from school:

1. The child does not feel well enough to participate comfortably in usual activities, such as with extreme signs of tiredness or fatigue, unexplained irritability or persistent crying.
2. The child requires more care than the school staff is able to provide without effecting the health and safety of the other children.
3. The illness is on the list of symptoms or illness for which exclusion is recommended.

The following list gives guidelines and recommendations for exclusion from school due to illness. Children with minor illness need not be excluded unless one or more of the following exists.

ILLNESS OR SYMPTOM	EXCLUSION IS NECESSARY
Chicken Pox	Yes - A child with uncomplicated chicken pox may return when blisters have dried and crusted (usually 6 days).
Conjunctivitis (pink or red eyes with thick mucous or pus draining from the eye)	Yes – May return 24 hours after treatment begins. If your health provider decides not to treat your child, a note is needed.
Coughing (severe, uncontrolled coughing or wheezing, rapid or difficulty in breathing)	Yes - Medical attention may be necessary. <i>Note: Children with asthma may be cared for in school with a written health care plan and authorization for medication/treatment.</i>
Coxsackie Virus (Hand, foot and mouth disease)	No - May attend if able to participate in school activities, unless the child has mouth sores and is drooling
Diarrhea <u>with</u> illness (vomiting, fever, rash) <u>Diarrhea:</u> stools that are watery and frequency is twice what is usual	Yes – May attend if cause of diarrhea is not illness related, e.g. caused by antibiotics or food sensitivity.
Fever <u>with</u> behavior changes or illness <u>Fever</u> is an elevation of body temperature above normal.	Yes - when fever is elevated above 100 degrees and is accompanied by behavior changes or other symptoms of illness, such as fatigue, rash, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.

ILLNESS OR SYMPTOM	EXCLUSION IS NECESSARY
Fifth's Disease	No - child is no longer contagious once rash illness appears.
Headlice	Yes - May return after treatment and removal of all live lice and nits from hair.
Hepatitis A	Yes – until 1 week after onset of illness or jaundice and when able to participate in school activities.
Herpes	Yes – if area is oozing and cannot be covered, e.g., mouth sores. Otherwise, may return to school.
IMPETIGO/ STAPH/ MRSA	Yes – May return 24 hours after treatment starts. Wound must be covered with dressing taped on all 4 sides.
Body Rash <u>with</u> fever	Yes - Seek medical advice. Any rash that spreads quickly, has open, weeping wounds and/or is not healing should be evaluated. May return to school when medical provider determines that illness is not communicable.
Mild Cold Symptoms (stuffy nose with clear drainage, sneezing, mild cough)	No – May attend if well enough to participate in school activities
Upper Respiratory Complications – large amount of thick nasal discharge – extreme sleepiness – ear pain – fever (above 100 ⁰ orally)	Yes – Seek medical advice. May return when symptoms are improved.
Ringworm	Yes - May return after treatment begins. Area should be covered while in school.
Roseola	Yes – seek medical advice. Note: A child with rash and no fever may return to school.
Scabies	Yes – May return after treatment is started with note from medical provider.
Strep Throat	Yes – May return after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment and no fever for 24 hours
Vaccine Preventable Diseases (mumps, measles, whooping cough)	Yes – until judged not infectious by a medical provider. Report all cases to Health Services Coordinator.
Vomiting (2 or more episodes in the past 24 hrs)	Yes – until vomiting resolves or health care provider determines that cause is not communicable. Note: Observe for other signs of illness and for dehydration.

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References

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