

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 several 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.
4. The child is not vaccinated due to medical or religious reasons and there is an outbreak in the school.

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 - Until blisters have dried and crusted (usually 6 days).
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)/Eye Discharge (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, malaise, or fever of 100 degrees or higher.
Diarrhea (loose or watery stools not caused by diet or medication)	Yes – **Children in diapers may remain in school if diarrhea is caused by diet or other medical factors
Fever with behavior changes or illness <u>Fever</u> is an elevation of body temperature above normal.	Yes - when fever is elevated to 100 degrees or higher. Child must remain at home for 24 hours after temperature returns to normal without any fever reducing medication.

ILLNESS OR SYMPTOM	EXCLUSION IS NECESSARY
Fifth's Disease (Diagnosed)	No - child is no longer contagious once rash illness appears.
Head Lice	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.
Mild Cold Symptoms (stuffy nose with clear drainage, sneezing, mild cough)	No – May attend if well enough to participate in school activities
Molluscum Contagiosum	No – affected area must be covered by clothing or bandage
Upper Respiratory Complications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - large amount of thick nasal discharge - extreme sleepiness - ear pain - fever (100 degrees or higher) 	Yes – Seek medical advice. May return when symptoms are improved.
Rash	Yes - May return to school when medical provider determines that illness is not communicable, and parent brings in note from medical provider
Ringworm	Yes - May return after treatment begins. Area should be covered by clothing or bandage.
Roseola	No – unless child cannot participate in usual activities and has a fever of 100 degrees or higher.
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 determined 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.