

Nursing Department Communication Notice to Parents

Illness and School Attendance

Very often parents have questions regarding when a child should stay home from school due to illness. In general, the following guidelines are used. **Your child should stay home if:**

- | **Elevated temperature** – must be temperature free for 24 hours without a fever reducing medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen. A temperature/fever is considered 100.4° F or higher.
- | **Illness Related Vomiting and/or Diarrhea** – none within the last 24 hours
- | **Strep throat** – Minimum of 12 hours on antibiotic before returning to school
- | **Nose discharge** - thick, colored drainage (may need to be evaluated by a health care provider)
- | **Chickenpox** - stay home until all blisters have dried to scabs (about 6 – 10 days)
- | **Rash** that has not been diagnosed as non-contagious - skin rashes may or may not be contagious, however, the diagnosis cannot be made at school. If a skin rash occurs, the child should remain at home and a health care provider contacted for diagnosis and appropriate treatment.
- | **Reddened or Pink eye** - refers to an inflamed eye. It often includes sticky discharge from the eye and pinkish tint to the sclera (whites of the eye). Contact your child's health care provider for advice/treatment. Children may be at school with symptoms and eye drops are not required.
- | **Cough** - repetitive coughing that interferes with child's activity or play may need to be evaluated by a health care provider.

In the case where one of the conditions occurs at school (i.e. elevated temperature, vomiting, diarrhea, skin rash), the parent will be contacted to take the child home. If the parent cannot be reached, one of your emergency contacts will be asked to pick up the child. School personnel are not able to transport students home.

If parent/guardian or emergency contact information changes during the school year, please notify the school office immediately. If your child is seen by a healthcare provider, please obtain a note excusing their absence related to their health condition.

Please keep this as a reference to use throughout the school year. We all need to work together to control communicable diseases and to maintain a healthier environment for the children.

Thank you, District 742 Nursing Department