

Nursing Department Communication Notice to Parents

Illness Guidelines and 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. An elevated temperature/fever is considered 100.4° F or higher.
- ✓ **Illness related vomiting and/or diarrhea** – minimum of 24 hours without a vomiting and/or diarrhea episode before returning to school
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **Rash** – that hasn't been diagnosed by a health care provider requires a letter from a health care provider indicating diagnosis before returning to school
- ✓ **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 a child's activity, play or learning may need to be evaluated by a health care provider.
- ✓ **Select contagious diseases (Pertussis, Influenza, RSV, Chickenpox, Measles, COVID-19, etc.)** - stay home and contact your school nurse for a return to school plan.

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 your 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

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