

Nursing Service 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:

- ✓ **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° F or higher.
- ✓ **Vomiting** - within the last 24 hours
- ✓ **Diarrhea** - within the last 24 hours
- ✓ **Strep throat** – Minimum of 24 hours on antibiotic before returning to school
- ✓ **Nose discharge** - thick, colored drainage (may need to be evaluated by a physician)
- ✓ **Head lice** - until treatment with medicated shampoo or oil treatment and/or no live lice found
- ✓ **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 physician contacted for diagnosis and appropriate treatment.
- ✓ **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). Prescription eye drops may be needed. Your child should receive the eye drops 24 hours before returning to school. Contact your child's physician for advice/treatment.
- ✓ **Cough** - repetitive coughing that interferes with child's activity or play. May need to be evaluated by a physician.

In the case where one of the conditions occurs at school (i.e. elevated temperature, vomiting, diarrhea, draining/matterly eyes, 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.

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,
Nursing Services