

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It's hard sometimes to decide whether to send your child to school when he or she doesn't feel well. Here at Kaufman ISD, we feel very strongly that good attendance is extremely important to your child's success at school! They must be here to learn. There are also important health reasons for keeping your child home from school, so here are some important guidelines to consider when your child does not feel well.

Children who have the following symptoms should stay home and not come to school until these symptoms have been gone for at least 24 hours without the help of medication, or until your doctor sends a note that states the condition is not contagious and it is OK for your child to come back to school.

- *FEVER – check your child's temperature with a thermometer, and if a fever over 100 degrees is present, don't send him or her to school, even for just a little while in the morning. Coming to school sick (and possibly contagious) not only exposes other children to the illness, but also delays your child's healing time. Children must be fever-free for 24 hours, without the use of medicine, before returning to school.*
- *VOMITING/DIARRHEA – until we know that these are not signs of a contagious illness, such as a stomach virus, your child should be kept home. If the vomiting or diarrhea happen more than once that day, or if they are associated with fever, you must keep your child home. Even if these things happen only one time before school starts, and your child feels better immediately afterwards, it is still wise to watch for a few hours to see if it happens again before sending him or her on to class. If your child is spending all his or her time at school feeling sick, then not much learning is taking place!*
- *SKIN RASHES – if the rash has any fluid or pus coming from it, the child must remain out of school until the rash has been treated and a note from the doctor states it is ok to*

return to school, or until the rash is gone, dried, or scabbed over with no new spots appearing. Anytime a rash is associated with fever, the child may not come to school until that fever is gone for 24 hours without medication.

Sometimes a rash is a sign of a contagious disease, therefore if your child has a rash of unknown origin, please have them seen by a physician to determine whether it is the sign of illness. Sometimes, rashes are not contagious, but are uncomfortable and itchy from contact with something the child is allergic to.

- ***RED EYES, ESPECIALLY IF THERE IS ALSO DRAINAGE OR CRUSTING AROUND THE EYE** -this can often mean your child has conjunctivitis, also known as pink-eye. Not all pink-eye is contagious. Sometimes it is just allergies or other irritations that are causing the red color, but until we know for sure, which means we must have a note from the doctor stating the condition is not contagious, or until the redness and drainage are completely gone, your child must remain out of school.*