

## When to Keep your Child at Home

It is important to maintain a healthy environment in the classroom to protect all students. Please seriously evaluate your child's health and ability to concentrate in school when he/she complains of headache, stomach pain, sore throat or cold symptoms even without a fever.

**Children often have no fever in the morning.** Temperatures may rise as the day progresses. If the ailment is a minor one, a day or two of rest at home may eliminate the symptoms. If the ailment is more serious, resting at home may help to prevent complications. The following symptoms may indicate a contagious illness. Your child should be kept at home if any of the following occur:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher the night prior to or the morning of school. The student must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school without the use of Tylenol, Motrin or any other fever reducing medication.
- Headache unrelieved by Tylenol or Motrin or any other headache relief medication.
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea within the past 24 hours. Students must be vomit/diarrhea free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Sore throat lasting 2-3 days
- Yellow or green drainage from the eyes or nose
- Excessive coughing and cold symptoms
- Rash
- Dizziness/chills/body aches

Resting at home with any of the above conditions will likely help with your child's recovery. It will also help to prevent the spread of illness and disruption to other students and staff members.

## Communicable Diseases

The School Nurse may exclude from school and require written clearance from a licensed health care provider for students suspected of having a communicable disease.

Any student in school suffering from a rise in temperature, skin eruption or unusual swelling shall be excluded from school until diagnosis of non-communicable disease is made or the child has fully recovered, **and has been fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.**

**Chickenpox/Shingles:** Students may return to school when all lesions are dry and there are no new lesions in 24 hours. This usually takes 4-6 days – Not sooner.

**Pertussis (Whooping Cough):** Students may return to school after 5 days of antibiotic treatment and with written clearance from a licensed health care provider to return.

**Strep throat:** Students may return only after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment and no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

**Contagious Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye):** Students may return after the documented start of treatment by a licensed health care provider or when the eye is no longer red, irritated and is without drainage.

**Ringworm, Pinworm, Scabies, Impetigo, or MRSA:** Students may return to school after 24-48 hours of appropriate therapy and with written clearance from a licensed health care provider to return.

**Head Lice:** Students may return when appropriately treated as determined by the School Nurse. It is important for parents/guardians to ensure that nits are removed after a child is treated for head lice. Please notify the school nurse if your child has been treated for head lice.

**Fifth Disease:** Children with fifth disease are not excluded from school; however parents should notify the School Nurse.

Marple Newtown School District complies with guidance from the PA Department of Health in matters of communicable disease. The Department of Health can require exclusion of students from school if they pose a threat to the health of others. **Additionally, they may require exclusion of unimmunized children if there is an outbreak of communicable illness.**

Please notify your child's School Nurse whenever there is a diagnosis of any of the communicable diseases listed above. The School Nurse has a better chance of controlling the spread of disease if she is alerted to its presence in the school. Your information will be kept confidential.



