Flowchart for Assessing Illness in the Absence of the School Nurse

**Individual feels ill**

- **≤ 99.9°F (No Fever)**
  - **Observation**
    - Observe individual’s demeanor and activity level.
    - Cheerful, active → Return to class
    - Distressed, flat (no emotion), lethargic, or ill appearing → Report observation to parent; let parent decide if student should go home
  
  - **History**
    - Signs and symptoms?
    - Duration of signs and symptoms?
    - Has individual taken any medicine?
    - Insignificant¹ → Return to class
    - Significant² → Call parent to pick up student; isolate

- **≥ 100.0°F (Fever)**
  - **Observation**
    - Observe individual’s appearance and activity level.
    - Appears ill* → Call parent to pick up student; advise parent to monitor student to decide if MD visit is warranted
    - Does not appear ill → Call parent to pick up student; refer to health care provider; isolate
  
  - **History**
    - Symptoms?
    - Duration?
    - Ill family members or friends?
    - Other conditions?
    - Insignificant³ → Call parent to pick up student; refer to provider; isolate
    - Significant⁴ → Call parent to pick up student; refer to health care provider; isolate

*If individual is experiencing difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, call 911.

¹ Insignificant: symptoms just started; history of allergies; mild symptoms; no medicine taken or only allergy medicine taken

² Significant: symptoms began at home in the a.m. or last night; appears ill; doesn’t typically complain; teacher insists student is ill; reports taking medicine at home such as ibuprofen (Advil/Motrin) or acetaminophen (Tylenol)

³ Insignificant: temperature in the 100’s, does not appear ill, cheerful and talkative

⁴ Significant: high fever; appears ill; family member is sick; has asthma, diabetes, other chronic condition

**Note:** When in doubt, call parent. If parent is in doubt, refer to health care provider.