

MASD Sick Child Guidelines

No child will be released without a parent/guardian notification.

It is our goal to keep the school environment as healthy as possible for all children and to protect your child, as well as others. Please keep the following guidelines in mind:

A child **will be sent home** if he or she has a/an:

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- Shortness of breathing or difficulty breathing
- Uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Rash/skin eruption, with or without drainage, of unknown origin
- Active vomiting or diarrhea
- Suspected contagious illness
- Serious injury or appears obviously ill

Please be aware that we encourage students to stay in class when possible. The nurses do not routinely notify parents of minor illness or injury. If you, as a parent or guardian, are called by the school nurse, please pick up your child in a timely manner. The nurse will only call home if she feels the child really needs to leave school.

Guidelines for parents to follow to avoid exposing other children to possibly contagious illness and to help prevent excessive clinic visits in school are as follows:

- Children with a temperature above 100.4 degrees must be **fever-free, without over the counter medications, for 24 hours** before returning to school.
- Injuries that happen at home or over the weekend should be taken care of prior to returning to school.
- If a child vomits or has diarrhea, that child should be kept at home for **24 hours from the last episode.**
- If they have red swollen eyes that itch and are draining pus or have a crusty appearance upon awakening, they should be kept home and see a doctor.
- If they have a productive cough that cannot be controlled with medication, they should stay home.
- If they have been diagnosed with a communicable illness such as chickenpox, impetigo, scabies, and/or ringworm, they will need a doctor's note to return to school.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Parents often ask about sending their child to school with a communicable disease. The Allegheny County Health Department offers the following guidelines and exclusion periods:

- **Pink Eye:** 24 hours after initiation of treatment.
- **Strep Throat/ Scarlet Fever:** 24 hours after initiation of treatment.
- **Lice:** Until treated and nit free. Students who have been excluded must be checked by the School Nurse and found to be free of lice eggs before re-entering the building.
- **Chicken Pox:** Until physician clears student to return.
- **Impetigo, Scabies, and Ringworm:** Until judged non-infectious by the physician.