



2022-2023 General Illness Policy

Policy

Any student who misses school or is sent home for symptoms of illness that may be signs of COVID as defined by the NYSDOH must have a healthcare provider clearance note, negative PCR test, or two rapid tests completed (at least 24-48 hrs apart) in order to return to school. *This is our general illness policy, please see our specific COVID Protocol Updates.*

In the event that your child becomes ill at school, we will call you to come and pick-up your child within one hour. Your child will be isolated from the other children until you arrive.

Given the evolving situation with COVID, the school's illness policy is based on the [NYSDOH COVID-19 Toolkit](#). The toolkit defines symptoms of illness that may be signs of COVID. This policy and the toolkit will be the primary reference point when determining if a student needs to stay at home or be sent home.

If a child's baseline health assessment includes anything that can be viewed as a sign and/or symptom of illness, we require a note from a healthcare provider explaining the underlying condition and treatment. The healthcare provider note must state that the sign and/or symptom is present at the child's baseline health assessment and that they are safe and cleared to attend school. An example of this type of issue is specific allergies.

Any absence of 3 days or longer for a medical reason other than COVID will require a healthcare provider clearance note.

FAQ

What constitutes a fever, and how is that handled?	Fever is defined as a temperature reading of 100.0F. If a child presents with a fever at school, they will be sent home and must stay home the next day for observation. Additionally, per NYSDOH, to return, a healthcare provider clearance note or the aforementioned testing must be submitted. All children must be free of fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication to return. The same policy applies if a child develops a fever at home.
What if my child has a rash?	Children will be sent home from school for any rash other than a common diaper rash or skin irritation. Before returning to school, they will need an evaluation and written diagnosis from a healthcare provider. There must also be clearance that the rash is not contagious.
How is pink eye handled?	Children will be sent home if they exhibit an unusual amount of discharge from or irritation in their eye(s). Before returning to school, they will need an evaluation and written diagnosis from a healthcare provider. - If the diagnosis is bacterial conjunctivitis, the child must have received at least 24 hours of treatment. If the diagnosis is viral conjunctivitis, the child may return AS LONG AS THERE IS NO DISCHARGE. - If the diagnosis is not "pink eye," a healthcare provider's note with a diagnosis and a clearance that the condition is not contagious is required.
What happens if my child is prescribed antibiotics?	If antibiotics are prescribed, the child must have received at least 24 hours of treatment.
How is diarrhea handled?	Children will be sent home from school if they have two or more loose bowel movements in one day. Per NYSDOH, to return, a healthcare provider clearance note or the aforementioned testing must be submitted. Before returning, all children must be free from diarrhea for 24 hours with at least 1 regular bowel movement.
How is vomiting handled?	Per NYSDOH, to return, a healthcare provider clearance note or the aforementioned testing must be submitted. Before returning, all children must be symptom free, tolerating their regular diet, and with no vomiting for at least 24 hours.
My child had a cold and has lingering symptoms (e.g., cough, runny nose). Can they come to school?	Per NYSDOH, to return, a healthcare provider clearance note or the aforementioned testing must be submitted. In addition, any lingering symptom must be notably improved and the child must be able to hygienically manage the symptom. The symptom may not interfere with the child's ability to access the program.
Common cold symptoms can feel subjective. What counts as a cold?	Children suffering from a common cold will be assessed on an individual basis (mild runny nose, sneezing, congestion). Factors of consideration include the developmental level of your child and the ability to limit the spread of germs.