

Subject: Student Absences and/or Illnesses

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please be reminded of the procedures for student illness, which are maintained to promote the best health for all our students. Anytime a student is out for any reason, a parent/guardian must call the appropriate divisional administrative assistant to notify them of the absence and reason for the absence. Any student out of school for illness-including surgery, injury, dental, medical, or mental health issues for 3 or more days, must have a signed doctor's note allowing the student to return to school.

Please note there are case-by-case situations, which also may require a medical note, even when the absence is only for 1-2 days. Please note the following information:

- Anytime a student has a procedure/surgery under anesthesia, a doctor's note must state the student can return to school (with the date to return noted), and under what conditions (no gym, yes full sports).
- Any situation where a student required an emergency room visit, or a 911 call, will need a medical note to return to school.
- Mental health issues requiring a clearance note will also be handled on a case by case basis.
- Students with a fever (defined as 100.0 F or above), diarrhea, or vomiting - even once - must be home for at least 24 hours and cannot return to school until symptom free for at least 24 hours without the use of symptom-reducing medications.
- Students with rashes require medical clearance by doctor before being in school.
- Students sick at home outside of school hours, please do not send the student to school the next day if they had any of the prior or following situations.
- Students with "strep" throat must be home for 24 hours on medication, before returning to school with a doctor's note.
- Students with an eye infection "pink eye" must be home on antibiotic eye drops for 24 hours and need a medical note stating they are able to return to school.

- Please call or email Division assistants and the school nurse (afarese@whschool.org) to report an absence.
- Please forward all medical/absence notes to afarese@whschool.org
- COVID specific illness that is mild does not require a medical clearance note, unless it is a moderate, or severe case. Please contact the school nurse. Current policy requires a 5-day isolation period from school.
- If your child is recovering from cold/flu/ or has a lingering cough, it would be preferable for you to have your child/young adult wear a mask in school.

Please also refer to your child's divisional guidelines in the student handbook. The parent and student handbook is available on our school website at whschool.org; go to Academics, then click division, "student & parent handbook". The policy is an overview of the minimum requirements. The nurse also addresses individual situations that arise, which may require a doctor's clearance as circumstances unfold.

In the interest of keeping our school community well, please do not send a child or young adult to school that is sick. We need to be respectful of each other's well-being. Please do keep us informed of your student's absences.

Respectfully,
Angela Farese BSN RN CSN
Wardlaw+Hartridge School

