Conditions for Short Term Exclusion and Absences

(Reference: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Infectious Disease in Child Care and School Settings)

In situations in which a child does not have a diagnosed disease/condition, but has signs or symptoms indicative of a potentially infectious disease, exclusion may be warranted. Generally, if any of the following conditions apply, exclusion from child care or school should be considered:

- The child does not feel well enough to participate comfortably in usual activities.
- The child requires more care than the child care or school personnel are able to provide.
- The child is ill with a potentially contagious illness, and exclusion is recommended by a health care provider, the state or local public health agency, or *Infectious Disease in Child Care and School Settings guidelines.*
- The child has signs or symptoms of a possible severe illness, such as trouble breathing.

The following are <u>some common</u> health conditions for which a student is not permitted in school; less common conditions are not listed. Note that the state or local health department may change these recommendations at any time in response to outbreaks of illness, which are reportable to them.

❑ **Cough:** severe uncontrolled coughing or wheezing, difficulty breathing, red or blue color to face with cough, high pitched whooping sound with coughing or vomits after coughing.

❑ **Diarrhea:** (stools that are looser and more frequent than usual) when accompanied by symptoms of illness (vomiting, fever, abdominal pain or jaundice), when it contains blood or mucous, or when stools can't be contained in a toilet, or when stool is not contained within diaper for diapered children.

❑ **Fever illness:** Temperature greater than 101° F (device reading--do not add degrees) **with** signs of illness such as rash, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, stiff neck, difficulty breathing, or behavior changes (see general illness below).

❑ **Flu symptoms:** Elevated temperature or fever (>101° F) and sore throat, cough, runny nose, body aches, vomiting or diarrhea. Stay home from school until fever or symptoms of fever are gone for 24 hours without the aid of medications.

❑ **General illness:** with or without fever, along with changes in behavior and/or the student looks and acts sick, is not able to participate comfortably in his/her usual activities, or if the student has persistent crying or requires more care than school personnel are able to provide.

❑ **Headache:** when severe and accompanied by additional symptoms like vision changes, stiff neck, fever or behavior changes.

❑ **Impetigo:** until 24 hours after treatment is started.

❑ **Jaundice or unusual color to skin, eyes, stool or urine:** until a medical exam indicates the student does not have hepatitis A.

❑ **Mouth sores:** if the child is drooling uncontrollably.

❑ **Infectious conjunctivitis:** (pink eye) with yellow or green draining (bacterial) or with tearing (allergic, chemical irritation, viral)—no exclusion, but notify the parent to call their health care provider for possible treatment if bacterial. Follow general illness guidelines for pink eye which is accompanied by behavior changes.

❑ **Rash:** When there is rash with a fever, behavior change or the rash is oozing or causes open wounds—exclude until the origin of the rash has been deemed by the physician to be non-contagious in nature or until the rash is gone (see page 64 of *Infectious Diseases in Child Care and School Settings* for more detailed guidance on exclusions for diagnosed rashes).

❑ **Signs of possible severe illness:** including but not limited to persistent crying, extreme irritability, severe or uncontrolled coughing, difficulty breathing, persistent wheezing, or lethargy.

❑ **Strep throat, scarlet fever, or other strep infection**: exclude until 24 hours after treatment started.

❑ **Vomiting:** when this occurs more than two times in 24 hours, or occurs once and is accompanied by symptoms of illness (such as fever, stomach pain, or diarrhea), is the result of a head injury, or if the vomit appears bloody.