



Gulf Shores City Schools

School Health Services

Excluding a sick child from school may decrease the spread of the disease to others. The decision to send your child home in the event he/she becomes sick at school will be made on an individual basis based on the school nurse's professional judgment.

This list serves as guidance in managing students and is not inclusive. Children with any of the symptoms listed below should be excluded from the school setting until symptoms improve; or a health care provider has determined that the child can return to the educational setting.

Communicable Disease or Condition	Exclusion and Readmission Criteria
CONJUNCTIVITIS (Pinkeye) Redness and swelling of the outer layer of the eye and inside the eyelid. It can also cause sore and watery eyes with discharge	Keep your child home until the discharge and signs of infection have cleared and/or completion of 24-hour treatment prescribed by a health care provider.
COVID A respiratory virus that may cause fever and chills. Cough shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, headache, and sore throat	May return to school when fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and have symptom improvement.
FEVER Elevated temperature of 100.4 or greater	Keep your child home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication before returning to school.
VOMITING 2 or more episodes of vomiting in the past 24 hours.	Keep your child home until vomiting resolves (no further vomiting for 24 hours) unless the health care provider indicates the vomiting is not contagious.
DIARRHEA Frequent, loose, water stools compared to child's normal pattern: not caused by diet or medication	Keep your child home until diarrhea resolves (no further diarrhea for 24 hours) unless the health provider indicates is not contagious.
HAND, FOOT, AND MOUTH DISEASE Fever and tiny blisters on the cheeks and gums, inside the mouth and on the hands and feet.	Keep your child home until fever free for 24 hours and all blisters have dried
HEAD LICE Tiny insects that bite and cause itching of the skin.	Your child may return to school after lice treatment and free of nits (eggs) and bugs. Child must be brought to school by parent/guardian and checked by the school nurse before being admitted to class.

IMPETIGO Blister like lesions which develop into pustules. May “weep” and crust	Keep your child home for 24 hours after medical treatment is initiated. Lesions must be covered for school attendance.
RASH WITH FEVER Any new rash accompanied by fever	Contact your child’s health care provider for medical advice. May return to school after the rash goes away or clearance is given by the health care provider.
RINGWORM A common skin infection, usually resulting in red, itching, scaly circular rash	Your child may come to school after treatment has started and the area must be covered for school attendance.
SCABIES Intense itching and sometimes a rash	Keep your child home until 24 hours after prescribed treatment has been completed.
SKIN WOUNDS Any wound: abscesses, boils, draining lesions, Staph and MRSA.	Keep your child home for 24 hours. Wounds must be covered and have no visible drainage.
STREP THROAT Fever, red sore throat, swollen glands.	Keep your child home. May return when treated with antibiotics for 24 hours, and fever free for 24 hours.
OTHER Symptoms that prevent your child from active participation in school activities.	Keep your child home and follow your child’s health care providers recommendations

Follow the directions from the child's health care provider and/or school nurse before returning to school.

References:

Alabama Department of Public Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

revised 3/4/2024