

ILLNESS EXCLUSION POLICY

24 Hour Rule

The best way to prevent the spread of illness in our schools is for children to stay home when they are sick. Below is a list of the most commonly seen illnesses and the exclusion time from school required by the Lawrence Township Board of Education:

FEVER

Any child with a temperature of **100 degrees** or more is excluded from school. Children must be **FEVER-FREE (temperature below 100 degrees)** for a **full 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine, BEFORE** returning to school. Children's temperatures do not remain constant throughout the day. It is important to check your child's temperature a few times throughout the day, not just in the morning or at night, to be certain they have completely recovered from their illness.

VOMITING AND/OR DIARRHEA

Children with stomach viruses often **do not** have a fever. It is difficult to know whether a child's vomiting or diarrhea is caused by a virus, something they ate or some other reason; *therefore*, any child who vomits or has diarrhea is excluded from school. Children who vomit or have diarrhea should remain home until they have **not vomited or had diarrhea for a full 24 hours**. Children should be **tolerating regular meals** without discomfort before returning to school.

COUGH

Children who are **coughing continuously** should remain home if; the cough is such that it interferes with their ability **OR** the ability of others to concentrate on school work, **even if they are fever-free**. **Written permission** from the **parent** is required in order for children to have **COUGH DROPS** in school. Because of the potential for choking, students are required to come to the Health Office to have their cough drops.

STREP THROAT

Children diagnosed with **strep throat** need to be on **antibiotic therapy for a full 24 hours** before returning to school. They must also be **fever-free for a full 24 hours** before returning to school.

PINK EYE

Children diagnosed with **bacterial conjunctivitis** need to be on **antibiotic therapy for a full 24 hours AND have no purulent discharge** from the eye(s) before returning to school.

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI)

Children with a **fever, cough and/or sore throat** are considered to have **ILI**. Children with **ILI** should stay home & not go into the community (*except to seek medical care*) for **AT LEAST 24 HOURS after being fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medicine**. Children should feel well enough to perform regular school activities before returning to school.

INFECTIOUS SKIN CONDITIONS

Children must be on medical treatment prescribed by their physician for a **full 24 hours** prior to returning to school. For open and/or draining lesions, exposed areas must remain covered while in school. A **physician's note** stating the condition is no longer contagious may be required by the school nurse in order for the student to return to school.

CHICKEN POX

Children diagnosed with chicken pox may return to school after they are fever-free for a **full 24 hours** and all lesions are **dry** and **crusted** before returning to school.

Many children return to school before they have recovered from an illness.

Children who are not fully recovered from an illness may still be contagious and able to infect others.

Children who are not feeling well have difficulty performing well in school.

IMPORTANT NOTE: make sure the school has **accurate phone numbers where you can be reached during the school day in the event of an illness or emergency**. In the case of a **seriously ill or injured child**, the uncertainty and timeliness of voice mail is not helpful. Please provide phone numbers of a co-worker or supervisor who would be able to get a message to you quickly. If your workplace is located more than 45 minutes from school, please provide the number of someone who would be able to accept responsibility for your child until you are able to get home from work.

WE ARE NOT PERMITTED TO SEND A SICK CHILD HOME ON THE BUS.