OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOLS
Building Bridges to the Future

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HELPFUL GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Keeping students healthy can be a major effort for both school personnel and parents. Here are some OPSB guidelines to consider when deciding whether your child should attend school.

FEVER-is a sign of infection or illness. If your child has a temperature to 100 degrees or above, he/she should remain at home. **CHILDREN SHOULD BE FREE OF FEVER FOR 24 HOURS WITH MEDICATION BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL.**

VOMITTING & DIARRHEA-are often contagious. Your child should be watched closely for dehydration and/or blood stools. **CHILDREN MUST BE FREE OF DIARRHEA & VOMITTING FOR 24 HOURS WITHOUT STOMACH MEDICATION BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL.**

RUNNY/NOSE/COUGH-Children often have runny noses/coughs during the cold and allergy seasons. These should be watched carefully. **Your child should remain at home if he/she is too uncomfortable to benefit from instruction, has a frequent cough and/or thick discolored ear/nose drainage accompanied with fever.**

RINGWORM-is a fungal infection of the skin and may be spread from one child to another. There are two types: 1)Ringworm of the scalp and 2)Ringworm of the skin. This can be treated with an over the counter **anti-fungal** medication (any pharmacist can assist you**). The student must be on medication for 24 hours before returning to school and the area should be covered with a band-aide if it is an exposed area that others may touch.** The parent/guardian should speak with the school nurse to discuss the treatment regimen before student is re-admitted to class. Proper treatment is required to prevent spread to others.

SORES-may be caused by a bacterial skin infection. These often begin around the nose and mouth but may appear at the site of minor injury and the spread to normal skin nearby. They usually develop yellow crusty scabs. **This type of infection is contagious and must be treated with medication that is ONLY prescribed by a doctor.** If left untreated, it may cause serious problems and scarring for the infected child**. Student may return to after being on medication for at least 24 hours and with a note from the doctor stating they may return to class.**

RASHES-Vary widely, both in appearance and severity. A small, isolated area may not warrant keeping your child home from school, whereas a rash covering a large portion of the body would. **A doctor should be consulted if**: a rash is spreading or if the child is too uncomfortable. If a doctor is consulted, a letter is required when returning to school.

PINK EYE-is another common condition in schools. **It is contagious and must be treated with a medication that is ONLY prescribed by a doctor.** Symptoms include: redness, itching, swelling, drainage and excessive matter upon waking in the morning, ie (eyelids may be "stuck" together). **Do not send student to school with these symptoms! Student may return to school after being on medication for at least 24 hours with a note from the doctor stating they may return to class.**

HEAD LICE-are often a problem. Any child can get head lice, but it is treatable with time and patience. Our school system follows a **"NO NIT" POLICY**. This means a child must be clear of lice and/or eggs before returning to school. About 30% of eggs (nits) can survive treatment and require removal (by hand) before returning to class. **Parents MUST bring student to school to be checked in their presence by school personnel, before being re-admitted to class.** Please see nurse if you need further instruction in this matter.