

Health Guidelines

SJPSB follows current public health practices, rules, and regulations governing the control and prevention of communicable disease, as established by the Louisiana State Department of Health and Hospitals (LDH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

For the health, safety, and well-being of the entire school community and to prevent the spread of infection to all students and staff, universal precautions are encouraged. Parents are asked to keep students' home when ill, to teach and to practice techniques to prevent the spread of infection (i.e., proper handwashing and how to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into their elbows). Students may be sent home, excluded, and/or referred to a Licensed Healthcare Provider, at the School RN's discretion (*i.e., for appropriate care that has not been rendered, for a condition that has not resolved within an adequate period of time, and for a suspected communicable disease or infectious condition*). Students who have been excluded from school, may not return until a Proof of Treatment and a Release to Return has been provided.

The following are a few of the most common signs and symptoms of communicable disease seen at school:

FEVER – A temperature of **100.4° or greater**; Students should remain at home and may return to school once **fever-free** for **24hrs** without the use of fever reducing medications (Tylenol, Acetaminophen, Advil, Ibuprofen).

VOMITING – Students vomiting **two or more times** within **24hrs** should remain home until able to retain food and liquids without vomiting, for **24hrs**; Students who are ill and have vomited at school, will be sent home.

DIARRHEA – Loose/watery stools, **two or more** in frequency over the student's normal in **24hrs**, or stools that cannot be contained to the toilet (potty-trained), diaper or pullup, will be sent home; Students may return to school, once frequency of stools has returned to normal and stools are able to be contained.

CONJUNCTIVITIS “PINK EYE” – Redness to the conjunctiva (*white of the eye*), watery or thick drainage with mucus and pus, that causes the eyelids to stick together; Common complaints are burning, itching, and scratchy eye; Conjunctivitis usually resolves on its own without treatment and antibiotic eyedrops are not required; If antibiotic is prescribed, once started, individuals are considered no longer contagious.

RINGWORM – A contagious fungal lesion that presents as a flat, ring-shaped sore that can be dry, scaly, crusted, or moist in appearance; Found on the body and/or scalp. Untreated lesions can easily be transmitted to others, as well as spread elsewhere on the body of the infected individual; **Ringworm of the body**: Lesions must be completely covered with clothing or a dressing; Medication may be purchased OTC and *Proof of treatment* is required, to return to school; **Ringworm of the scalp**: Lesions require evaluation and treatment by a Licensed Healthcare Provider; Students will be sent home and may return with *proof of treatment*, and lesions covered with a washable head covering; If lesions cannot be covered, then students can return **24hrs** after treatment has been started.

IMPETIGO “INDIAN FIRE” – A contagious bacterial skin infection with red, itchy sores/lesions; Found anywhere on the skin, but most often found around the nose, mouth, hands and arms; Clear or yellow (honey-colored) pus or drainage which forms a crust and sticks to the skin; Students will be sent home for evaluation and treatment by a Licensed Healthcare Provider; Students may return to school once antibiotic has been started, all sores/lesions covered, and *proof of treatment* provided.

LICE – A student with live head lice will be sent home; Students must be treated with a medicated shampoo (pediculicide) that can be obtained OTC and *proof of treatment* provided; Students must be brought to school, checked by school personnel, and cleared to remain at school.

UNIDENTIFIED RASH/SUSPECTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASE – Students with an unidentified rash, with other signs and symptoms of illness, and/or suspected communicable disease, will be sent home for evaluation and treatment by a Licensed Healthcare Provider; Students sent home with suspected communicable disease will be required to provide a *release to return to school* from an Licensed Healthcare Provider.

GENERAL SYMPTOM COMPLAINTS

(Seasonal Colds or Allergies, Runny Nose/Nasal Discharge, Stomach Ache, Sore Throat, Earache, Headache) – Students with general symptom complaints, without signs and symptoms of infection, communicable disease, and/or a Medication Order on file with an approved medication at school, should call home; Parents are encouraged to bring and administer medication to students who feel well enough to remain at school; **NOTE**: Students presenting with general complaints, in which symptoms are persistent, cause significant pain or discomfort, limit the students activity and/or learning, will be sent home at the School RN's discretion.

For more information on the above guidelines, you can go to the CDC website @ www.cdc.gov and the DHH website @ www.infectiousdisease.dhh.louisiana.gov