



Health Services Protocol: Exclusion From School and/or Return to School

This protocol reflects IC 20-34-3-9. Additionally, this protocol is to be used in conjunction with Indiana State Department of Health Communicable Disease Reference Guide for School Personnel. According to IC 20-34-3-9: If a child is ill, has a communicable disease, or is infested with parasites, the School Principal may send the child home. The Principal designee for health-related issues is the School Nurse. In the event that the School Nurse is not available, the Principal or Administrator will make necessary decisions. A student may be referred to the school nurse by a staff member, a parent, or per self.

General Principles for Sending a Student Home

Exclusion from school may be warranted when:

- An illness or injury impacts the educational process for the student. The illness or injury creates or contributes to an unsafe and/or unhealthy educational environment.
- The illness or injury requires care or observation that cannot be managed at school.

The following symptoms may warrant a student being sent home from school:

- Fever greater than or equal to 100 F
- Diarrhea and/or vomiting
 - With vomiting and diarrhea, clinic personnel will evaluate any associated circumstances and other symptoms before making an exclusion decision.
 - Children may vomit for reasons other than illness, including coughing, stress, exertion, reflux and food intolerance.
- Rash without a fever
- Difficulty breathing
- Uncontrolled cough
- Uncontrolled pain
- Drainage from eyes and/or nose
- Live head lice

Parents may be notified if their student is exhibiting the following symptoms: fever of 100 F or higher, conjunctivitis (pink eye), disruptive cough, diarrhea, severe stomach, head, or ear pain, vomiting, itchy or draining rashes, extreme fatigue, significant injury, or live head lice. The Nurse or school designee will assess the student and contact parent/guardian for transportation home, as deemed necessary. The student will be released to the parent/or guardian or emergency contact person provided by the parent/ guardian.

Notification of other clinic visits to parents will be at the discretion of clinic personnel.

Non-urgent communication with parents regarding a student's clinic visit may be via phone call or email. Students who are seen in the clinic and do not have symptoms warranting a phone call to a parent for transportation home will be returned to class to finish the school day.



Criteria that may be used to determine if a student may return to school include:

- Fever free for at least 24 hours (since last temperature over 100°), without the use of fever reducing medication
- Free of vomiting and diarrhea for 24 hours (after the last episode) of vomiting or diarrhea and able to tolerate his/her normal diet.
- If the illness is communicable and requires medication intervention, the student has been on the medication for 24 hours, or as directed by a licensed medical provider, before returning to school.
- If a student is sent home for live head lice, the student may return to school after home treatment is complete and after being cleared by school personnel.
- The student is able to participate in normal school activities without fatigue, pain, headache, fever, or relapse of symptoms.
 - If a student will have restrictions related to PE, recess, band/choir, or athletics, a note from a licensed medical provider may be requested.
 - The note should list the restrictions and anticipated duration of the restrictions (dates, number of days, etc).
- The school may request a note from a licensed medical provider verifying that the student is medically cleared to return to school.
 - In the event that a student is absent due to serious illness, hospitalization, accident or injury, or surgery, the note should include any restrictions, or changes in care, that the student may have upon return to school and the anticipated duration of those restrictions or changes.
 - If a student will have restrictions related to PE, recess, band/choir, or athletics, the note should list the restrictions and anticipated duration of the restrictions (dates, number of days, etc).
 - It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide any necessary supplies, medication, or equipment that a student will need to use at school.
 - In the event that the student will require the use of durable medical equipment at school such as crutches, a wheelchair, or a walker (see Health Services TSC Health Services: Use of Crutches, Walkers, or Wheelchairs in School protocol for additional information)
 - The note should indicate that use of this equipment will be required at school, including the diagnosis or reason.
 - any restrictions that may be necessary due to that requirement for school including restrictions related to PE, recess, band/choir, and athletics.
 - the anticipated duration of the restrictions and need for durable medical equipment.
 - It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide any necessary durable medical equipment that a student will need to use at school.