



ILLNESS POLICY 2026-2027

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Deciding when to keep your student home from school can be difficult. When a student is sick and needs to stay at home, parents should contact the school and describe the illness and symptoms. If a healthcare provider makes a specific diagnosis (such as strep throat, conjunctivitis, chicken pox, etc.), a note from the healthcare provider with instructions for the return to school timeline is requested.

There are several reasons students should stay home from school:

1. The student does not feel well enough to participate in usual activities and exhibits signs of extreme fatigue, unexplained irritability, or persistent crying.
2. The student requires more care than the school staff can provide without negatively impacting the health and safety of other students.
3. The student has an illness that requires them to stay home, and/or their healthcare provider has provided a written return to school letter with a return date.

The following list gives guidelines and recommendations for exclusion from school due to specific symptoms or diagnoses:

ILLNESS OR SYMPTOM	EXCLUSION IS NECESSARY
Chicken Pox/Varicella	Yes - Until blisters have dried and crusted (usually 6 days). Must be fever-free per policy.
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)/ Eye Discharge (itchy, pink, or red eyes with thick mucus or pus draining from the eye)	Yes - May return 24 hours after treatment begins. If your healthcare provider decides not to treat your child, a note is required. Eyes must be free of drainage before returning to school.

Coughing (severe, uncontrolled coughing or wheezing, rapid or difficulty in breathing OR repetitive dry cough)	Yes - Medical attention may be necessary. Students may return to school with a clearance note from a healthcare provider stating the cause is not communicable. Note: <i>Students with asthma may be cared for in school with a written health care plan and authorization for medication/ treatment. For asthmatic students, coughing/wheezing should improve or resolve with the use of an inhaler. If it does not resolve or worsens, the student must be sent home for further treatment or medical evaluation.</i>
Coxsackie Virus (Hand, foot, and mouth disease)	No - May attend if able to participate in school activities, unless the student has mouth sores and is drooling, fatigued, or has a temperature of 100.4 F degrees or higher.
Diarrhea – loose or watery stools, with or without mucus and blood	Yes - Documentation provided by a healthcare provider stating the student is not infectious, or the diarrhea is caused by diet/medical factors. Any stool leaking through clothing and onto shared surfaces is a health and safety issue for all students and staff.
Fever (>100.4 degrees F)	Yes - when the temperature is elevated to 100.4 F degrees or higher. Must be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications to return.
Fifth's Disease (Diagnosed)	No - The student is no longer contagious once the rash appears and without fever.
Head Lice	Yes - May return after treatment and removal of all live lice and nits from hair.
Hepatitis A	Yes - Until determined not infectious by a healthcare provider.
Herpes Zoster	Yes - If the area is oozing and cannot be covered, e.g., mouth sores. Otherwise, may return to school.

Impetigo	Yes - Student may return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has begun. Wound drainage must be covered and contained with a clean, dry bandage.
Influenza / COVID	Yes - Student must be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications to return. Note: <i>The most contagious period is the first three days of illness symptoms.</i>
Molluscum Contagiosum	No - Affected area must be covered by clothing or a bandage.
Mononucleosis/Epstein-Barr	Yes - Student must be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications. A note regarding physical restrictions is requested.
MRSA/Staph Infection	Yes - May return 24 hours after treatment starts. The wound must be covered with a dressing taped on all 4 sides. Wound drainage must be covered and contained with a clean, dry bandage.
Upper Respiratory Symptoms *Large amount of thick nasal discharge *Persistent cough with or without sputum *Shortness of breath *Difficulty breathing	Yes - Must be symptom-free for 24 hours without symptom-reducing medication.
Rash	Yes - May return to school when a healthcare provider determines that the illness is not communicable, and the parent brings in a note from the healthcare provider that the student may return to school, or the rash is completely resolved. Note: <i>If the rash is accompanied by fever, the student must be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications, and the rash must be resolved before returning to school.</i>

Ringworm	No - As long as the area can be covered by a bandage or clothing. Over-the-counter treatment must begin when the student goes home. The area must remain covered at school until the ringworm completely resolves. Yes - If ringworm is unable to be covered with a bandage or clothing, worsens, or spreads, the parent must seek medical advice, and a note from a healthcare provider will be required for the student to return to school.
Scabies	Yes - May return 24 hours after treatment is started with a note from the healthcare provider that the student is no longer contagious and/or proof of treatment.
Strep Throat	Yes - May return after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment. If a student has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, a fever policy must be followed.
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (mumps, measles, rubella, pertussis/whooping cough)	Yes - Until determined not infectious by a healthcare provider.
Vomiting - episode in the last 24 hours where the cause cannot be determined (examples of explainable causes: history of motion sickness; known food allergy)	Yes - Must be symptom-free for 24 hours without medication.