MCS ILLNESS GUIDE

REVISED 6/15/26

Students sent to the school nurse with symptoms of illness may be asked to be picked up within an hour and assessed for communicable diseases and may be excluded according to policy 6.403 until written documentation is provided from a healthcare provider or the health department that they are safe to return.

Symptom/Illness	Should NOT attend school	MAY attend school
Fever	• Fever (>100.4F)	• Fever resolved without the use of a fever reducing medication (Advil or Tylenol) for **24 hours**
Cough	• Frequent, disruptive, uncontrollable cough	• When non-disruptive to the classroom setting
Sore Throat	• Sore throat, swollen lymph nodes, headache, nausea, and/or with fever (>100.4F) • Positive Strep test or symptoms of Strep Throat	• After **24 hours** on antibiotics **OR** • Negative throat culture **OR** • Resolving symptoms
Diarrhea or Vomiting	• Diarrhea (2 or more episodes) OR • Vomiting (1 episode)	• If free from diarrhea/vomiting without the use of medication for **24 hours**
Pediculosis (Head Lice)	• Live lice are present	• With proof of treatment **OR** • School nurse confirming lice-free before returning to class
Rash or Skin Infection	• Illness based rash or signs of skin infection that is undiagnosed by a medical provider	• When rash is improving **OR** • Written release from a medical provider
Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	• Eye appears to be infected • Eyelashes are matted • Thick drainage is present	• Written documentation from a medical provider with return to school information **AND/OR** • After **24 hours** of eye treatment • Non-infectious eye irritation (allergies, etc.)

COVID-19	• Positive COVID-19 result or doctor's diagnosis of COVID-19
	• Fever (>100.4F)
		• Resume normal activities when for at least 24 hours, both are true:
		  ◦ Your symptoms are getting better overall, **AND**
		  ◦ Fever free (and are not using fever-reducing medication (Advil or Tylenol) for **24 hours**

Flu	• Positive Flu test or doctor's diagnosis of Flu • Fever (>100.4F)	• Improving symptoms **OR** medical provider note indicating a date for return to school **AND** fever free for **24 hours** without the use of medication
Hand Foot and Mouth	• Open draining blisters/sores on hand, feet, or mouth area • Uncontrolled drooling with mouth sores • Fever (>100.4F)	• Blisters/sores are free from drainage • **OR** written release from a medical provider • **AND** Fever free without the use of a fever reducing medication (Advil or Tylenol) for **24 hours**
Chickenpox (Varicella) *Exposure notification will be determined by RCHD	• Itchy pink/red rash with small fluid filled blisters	• When all lesions are Scabbed over and dry with no new lesions, usually 5-7 days • If no fever without the use of medication for **24 hours**