



Tips for Parents from the School Health Office

Many parents ask, “When is my child sick enough to stay home from school?”

This is not always an easy question to answer! We hope that these tips can help!

A child who is sick will not be able to perform well in school and is likely to spread the illness to other children and staff. We suggest making a plan for childcare ahead of time so you will not be caught without a comforting place for your child to stay if he/she is ill.

Our school policy states that you should not send your child to school if he/she has:

- Fever in the past 24 hours
- Vomiting in the past 24 hours
- Diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Strep Throat (must have been taking an antibiotic for at least 24 hours before returning to school)
- Bad cold, with a very runny nose or bad cough, especially if it has kept the child awake at night
- Head lice – until your child has been treated according to the nurse or doctor’s instructions

If your child becomes ill at school and the school nurse feels that your child is too sick to benefit from school or is contagious to other children, you will be called to come and take him/her home from school. It is essential that your child’s school nurse has a phone number where you can be contacted during the day and emergency numbers in the event you cannot be reached. The school nurse should have an annually updated Health Services Emergency Information form on file for every child. This form can be found and printed from the “Registration” category on this web site. Parents and designated emergency contact people may not pick up children from school unless they are listed on this form and have valid photo identification. Please be sure that arrangements can be made to transport your child home from school and that childcare is available in case of illness. If your daytime or emergency phone number changes during the year, please notify your child’s school nurse immediately.

Please call the school’s Health Office if you have any questions or concerns.