

## **When to Keep Your Child Home**

Children should be kept home from school when they don't feel well. It is important to get the rest they need to recover, and to prevent the spread of germs to other children and the staff. If you are unsure of when to keep your child home, please contact the school nurse or your family medical provider.

The following symptoms may suggest a communicable disease. Children who have the following symptoms should be kept home from school until a doctor has seen them, they no longer have symptoms indicating a communicable disease, or they received treatment for at least 24 hours for certain diseases.

**Fever-** *A temperature of 100.4 or higher indicates a fever. If your child has a temp of 100.4 or higher at school he/she will be sent home. Your child should be fever free for 24 hours and WITHOUT the use of a fever reducer (Tylenol/Ibuprofen) before he/she returns to school.*

**Vomiting and Diarrhea-** *If your child has an episode of vomiting or diarrhea at school, he/she will be sent home. Anyone with either of these symptoms should stay home until symptoms are absent for 24 hours.*

**Strep Throat-** *If a fever is accompanied by a sore throat, stomach ache, or headache it may be strep throat. Strep throat is diagnosed by a throat culture obtained at a medical clinic. If your child is treated with antibiotics for strep, he/she must stay home for 3 doses and/or 24 hours before returning to school.*

**Eyes-** *Pink eye or Conjunctivitis appears as a pinkish/red sclera (white of the eye). It is usually itchy and painful. Drainage or crust may form on the eyelids. A visit to the doctor is needed to confirm pink eye, and it must be treated for 24 hours with antibiotic eye drops/ointment before returning to school.*

**Skin Problems-** *Rashes and infected sores need to be diagnosed by a medical provider. Many skin rashes such as impetigo, scabies, chicken pox, fifth disease, and hand, foot, and mouth disease are very contagious. Students may return to school once the rash has been diagnosed and treated for 24 hours or cleared by a doctor. Open sores from illnesses such as impetigo may need to be covered at school with bandages for several days. Chicken pox sores need to be dried and crusted before student may return to school.*

**Cough-** *A cough may be a sign of many different illnesses. Just a cough does not warrant your child staying home, BUT if a cough is accompanied by a fever, sore throat, body aches, or any other symptoms you should keep your child home. Any cough that lasts for more than several days should be discussed with a doctor.*

**Lice-** *If live lice are found on a student at school, the student may stay at school for the remainder of the day. A call will be made to the parents/guardian. The child may return to school after treatment. If you discover lice at home, please contact the school nurse to discuss the best way to get rid of lice and determine when your child may return to school.*