



Illness Policy

Deciding when to keep a child home from school can be a difficult decision. It is important that children attend school. For some, a sick child may mean missing work. If your child is ill please notify the office no later than 8:45 am. Homework will be available for pickup in the afternoon by 3:30 pm.

This information does not take the place of consulting a medical provider.

Symptom:	Description:	When to keep a child home from school:
Cough	A mild cough often starts after the first few days of a cold. A child with mild symptoms, no fever and otherwise feeling well may attend school.	A child with a cough and fever must stay home from school for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines (Tylenol or Ibuprofen).
Diarrhea/ Vomiting		Children who have vomited or have had diarrhea should be kept home until symptom and fever free for 24 hours.
Ear ache	Consult a medical provider for ear aches, as they may require medical treatment.	A child should be kept home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
Fever	A Fever is a common symptom of viral and bacterial infections. A fever is a temperature of 100 F orally or 99 F axillary or higher.	Any child with a fever should not attend school. If an antibiotic was prescribed for a bacterial infection they should not return to school until 12 hours after the first dose has been taken, as well as being fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

Headache	A child whose only complaint is a mild headache (and no fever) usually does not need to stay home from school. Complaints of frequent or more severe headaches should be evaluated by a medical provider.	
Pink Eye (conjunctivitis)	A common infectious disease of one or both eyes caused by several types of bacteria and viruses. (red watery eyes without discharge is not considered conjunctivitis and is not a reason for exclusion).	Any child with red eyes/eyelids with thick white or yellow discharge and eye pain should be evaluated by a medical provider. The child may return to school after treatment has been initiated for 24 hours unless a doctor has diagnosed a noninfectious conjunctivitis (a note from the medical provider will be required)
Sore throat	A child with a mild sore throat, no fever and otherwise feeling well is able to attend school.	Any child diagnosed with strep throat or other bacterial infection may return to school 12 hours after starting antibiotics and has been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
Flu	The flu is a highly contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza viruses and can cause mild to severe illness.	Those with either confirmed or suspected flu symptoms should stay home for at least 24 hours, even if prescribed antiviral medication. They may return to school when symptom and fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
Covid	A child that tests positive for Covid, will need to be isolated for 5 days and have symptoms improving and be fever free for 24 hours prior to returning to school.	If a member of your household tests positive, the child may attend school as normal. We ask that you monitor for symptoms.

Lice	Children with live lice will be excluded from school until after treatment.	
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* A child that is sent home from school with a fever or any of the above symptoms will not be able to return to school for a minimum of 24 hours. If a parent chooses to take a child home that is not feeling well, but that child does not meet the criteria to be sent home, that child may not return for 24 hours. Our only goal is to keep the students and staff safe.

Frequent complaints: Sometimes children pretend or exaggerate illness in order to stay home. However, frequent complaints of tummy aches, headaches, and other symptoms may be a physical sign that a child is feeling emotionally stressed. Consult a medical provider to evaluate symptoms. Stress-based complaints cause some children to unnecessarily miss a great deal of school. It is important to check often with your children about how things are going. Share concerns with their teachers and other support staff so that we can support you and your child. It is our goal to make attending school a fun and positive learning experience.