

Guidelines for Illness at School

Regular school attendance is important for a student's academic success. When a student experiences illness, the consideration to send the student home or exclude from school is made based on guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH), the student's primary medical provider, and the district RN.

The primary medical provider may provide specific directions about when a student should remain home or when it is safe to return to school. At times, The District RN may need to follow up with a parent and/or the student's medical provider.

If a student who is seen in the health room is too ill to return to class within 10-15 of rest, the parent should be contacted and make a plan to pick up the student in a timely manner.

Contact the District RN with questions regarding student injury or illness or exclusion questions. The list below is not all inclusive so please contact your district RN for direction. Your nurse may consult with public health department for more obscure infectious illness. Document student illness and the actions taken on the school health room log.

Exclusion; temporarily keeping a student from attending the school setting when there is a known illness, or signs and symptoms of potential illnesses. The purpose is to promote student recovery and to decrease the spread of illness to others. The decision to exclude is typically based on the criteria listed below and should be made in coordination with the district RN. Generally, if any of the following conditions apply, exclusion from school should be considered:

- **Student's do not feel well enough to participate comfortably in usual school day activities.**
 - Student's who require more care than the teacher is safely able to provide.
 - Temperature at or greater than 101 degrees fahrenheit (*Student should not return to school until they have been fever free for 24 hours without medication*)
 - Any body fluids that are not able to be contained.
 - Respiratory distress
 - Severe coughing that is interrupting learning for the student and others in the classroom.
 - Excessive nasal discharge.
 - Excessive sputum
 - Infection of eye(s) causing discharge that is unable to be contained.
 - Behavior changes, persistent crying
 - 1st vomit if child appears ill
 - Student does NOT need to be sent home with 1st vomit and no signs of illness, must go home if 2nd vomit occurs.
 - Diarrhea; must go home with 1 uncontained stool or 2 contained diarrhea stools. (diapered and/or toilet)
 - Student should not return until 24 hours following last diarrhea stool
 - Skin rashes with or without itching (check with RN)
 - Severe, unrelenting headache
 - Ear pain, discharge from ear
 - Complaints of toothache, swollen gum or jaw areas
 - Excessive fatigue
 - Intense/excessive menstrual cramps
- In cases in which unvaccinated children are exposed to a vaccine preventable disease (such as measles, mumps, rubella, and pertussis)