



## WASHINGTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH

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# SHOULD YOUR CHILD BE KEPT HOME FROM SCHOOL?

## Exclusion Criteria Guidelines

Washington County Department of Education (WCDE) believes that student success begins with excellent student attendance. We do recognize that there may be times when students are ill and should not attend school. To promote attendance in all schools, WCDE provides parents with this guide for deciding when is the best time to keep your child home from school.

In general, students should stay home if they have a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher with behavior changes or other symptoms of illness, if their symptoms will prevent them from comfortably participating in school activities, and/or if recommended by a healthcare professional. Children may return to school once their fever and symptoms have resolved for 24 hours (without medication) and they are able to participate in school activities.

Children with common colds, runny noses, cough, ear infection, and/or watery eyes do not need to be kept home unless the symptoms above are present.

Here are recommendations for some other special situations:

### **Abdominal Pain**

Children should remain home and be evaluated by a healthcare professional if pain lasts more than two (2) hours or occurs with fever or other symptoms.

### **Chicken Pox**

Children should remain home until all blisters have dry, complete scabs, and the student has no new lesions for 24 hours. This is usually seven (7) days from the beginning of the breakout with the pox.

### **Conjunctivitis/ Pink eye (Red/pink eye, crusty/sticky drainage)**

Conjunctivitis/Pink Eye can result from many causes, including viruses, bacteria, allergens, contact lens use, chemicals, fungi, and certain diseases. Students requiring treatment for infection may return twenty-four (24) hours after treatment is started by their healthcare provider. To return, symptoms of the eye drainage should be reduced. If no treatment is required, the student may return to school.

### **Diarrhea**

Diarrhea may be tough on children to deal with at school and can be a sign that your child has a contagious infection. Children should be kept home if they are having frequent diarrhea, or stools with blood or mucus. Students with bloody diarrhea require a note from their healthcare professional to return to school.

### **Hepatitis A**

Student should remain home for one (1) week after symptoms started, or as directed by their healthcare professional.

### **Impetigo**

Children may return to school the day after treatment begins. Sores should be covered when the child returns to school.

### **Lice (Pediculosis)**

Children may attend school if lice has been treated. Please also refer to Pediculosis Policy 6.4021.

### **Mouth Sores with Drooling**

Children should remain home until cleared to return to school by their healthcare professional.

### **Measles**

Student should be kept home for four (4) days after the rash appears.

### **Molluscum Contagiosum**

Student does not need to be kept home.

### **Mumps**

Student should be kept home for five (5) days after parotid gland begins swelling.

### **Rash with Fever or Behavior Changes**

Student should remain home until cleared to return to school by their healthcare professional.

### **Ringworm**

Student may return to school the day after treatment begins. Areas should be covered when the child returns to school.

### **Rubella**

Student should be kept home for seven (7) days after the rash appears.

### **Skin Sores with Weeping Fluid that Cannot be Covered**

Students should remain home until symptoms resolve and/or sores can be covered.

### **Scabies**

Student may return to school once treatment begins.

**Staph Infection**

Students with symptoms should be kept home from school until seen by provider and advised regarding appropriate treatment.

**Strep Throat**

Student should remain home until they have taken antibiotics for twenty-four (24) hours. Student may return if they received one (1) dose of antibiotics on the day of diagnosis, and one (1) dose the following day before school.

**Vomiting**

Student should remain home if vomited twice in the past twenty-four (24) hours, unless cleared to return by their healthcare professional.

**Whooping Cough (Pertussis)**

Student should remain home until treated by their healthcare provider with antibiotics for at least five (5) days.

**Please note, we are aware that each child is different and unique and illnesses may present differently for different children. The nurse will use professional judgment when caring for and making recommendations for your child. If you should have specific questions regarding your child, please contact the school nurse.**

Medical Director  Date: 5.24.19

**COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH**

**PROTOCOL**