

## **NGSD66 Illness Protocol: Should Your Child Stay Home?**

In most situations the staff of Newark Grade School District 66 prefers students come to school and if they become ill at school the parent/guardian will be notified. However, here are a few guidelines to help you decide whether your child is too ill to go to school.

### **Fever**

Your child should stay home if he/she has a temperature at or above 100.4° F. Your child may return to school when he has been fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication for 24 hours.

### **Contagious Illness**

- Your child should stay home from school if he/she has a contagious disease. A contagious disease is one that is spread by close contact with a person or object. This could include chicken pox, influenza, vomiting, diarrhea, strep throat, "pink eye" with copious amounts of yellow or green drainage. Some illnesses may be contagious before the child shows signs of illness. It is very hard to prevent the spread of some germs, especially in a community setting. Good hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of disease.
- If your child has chicken pox or strep throat, ask your doctor when he/she may return to school. Generally, children who have active chicken pox should not return to school until all the lesions are dried and crusted. Children with strep throat should be on antibiotics for 24 hours and be feeling well enough to concentrate before returning to school.

### **Your child is too ill to go to school if he/she has any of these signs:**

- Has vomiting or diarrhea, unless these are determined to be due to a non-communicable condition and the child is not in danger of dehydration and feels well enough to participate in school. Please keep your child home for 24 hours from the last episode of vomiting.
- Is wheezing or consistently short of breath.
- Has a cough that disrupts sleep and/or normal activity.
- Has copious amounts of yellow or green drainage from the eye. If the doctor has given antibiotics, the child may return to school after 24 hours of treatment or according to the doctor's note.
- Rash that is rapidly spreading or accompanied by fever or has open, weeping lesions (rash without fever or other symptoms usually does not require the student to stay home)

### **Your child may be able to come to school even if:**

- He/she has a mild stuffy nose, sneezing, and a mild cough without fever. Reinforce the importance of frequent hand washing.
- He/she has experienced one or two episodes of diarrhea without vomiting, abdominal pain, or fever.