

North Berkshire School Union

Exclusion From School Due to Illness Policy

Symptoms of illness can appear suddenly; they progress rapidly in children, and infections spread easily in school settings. Many of our children are very susceptible to viruses.

In an attempt to minimize the spread of illness, we are requesting that you keep your child home if he/she exhibits any of the symptoms described below. If you are unsure as to whether or not your child's symptoms are indicative of an illness, we are requesting that you keep your child home for the day. Unusual behavior changes or sleep patterns may also be indicative of the onset of illness. **If your child is sent home due to illness, or becomes sick at home, keep him/her home for at least 24 hours after ALL symptoms have subsided. Your child should also be fever free for 24 hours with no medications to mask symptoms.**

In most cases, children can return to school 24 hours after taking antibiotics if prescribed by a physician. A child sent back to school too soon will usually be more susceptible to other illnesses, and may put other students at risk.

SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS REQUIRING YOUR CHILD TO STAY HOME OR BE REMOVED FROM SCHOOL OR CONSULT WITH A PHYSICIAN.

- Fever:** Temperature of 99-100° F or higher especially if other symptoms are present.
- Diarrhea:** Two or more episodes of watery or loose stools.
- Vomiting:** One or more times in a 14-hour period.
- Body Rash:** Rashes are frequent occurrences in children. However, if the rash is accompanied by fever, or causes severe itching or discomfort, your child should remain at home until the symptoms disappear, or are treated by a physician who gives you a written clearance for him/her to return to school.
- Eye Discharge:** Thick mucus or yellow/green drainage from the eye, crustiness along eyelids which appears after cleaning, or "pink eye".
- Earache:** Children can experience much pain with an earache and are more comfortable at home.
- Sore Throat/ Fever/ Swollen Glands:** Severe sore throat, especially accompanied by fever and/or swollen glands may be strep throat. Strep throat requires treatment with antibiotics. The child **MUST** be on antibiotics for at least 24 hours before he/she can return to school. Please do not hesitate to keep your child home longer if the complaints are not greatly improved after only 24 hours.
- Runny** Runny noses and coughs are frequent during the winter and the spring. If your child

Nose/Cough: coughs continuously, has thick yellow/green nasal or mucous drainage, or requires frequent wiping of nasal mucous drainage, please keep him/her home. Should these symptoms develop at school we will request that you take him/her home.

Irritability/ Excessive Sleepiness: Excessive sleepiness, irritability, or unusual behaviors, especially in younger children may be indicative of the onset of illness. Children are uncomfortable, unhappy, and do not benefit from the classroom at these times.

Procedure for Students Returning to School after Significant Illness, Injury or Surgery:

To maintain the health and safety of our students, it is essential that we receive current information on a child who is returning to school after a period of absence.

In the event that a student is absent for three or more consecutive days, is hospitalized, has a need to go to the Emergency Room, or has a change in their functional status (i.e. change in weight bearing status, functional restriction, etc.) due to illness or injury, please provide the school nurse with documentation from the physician noting any change in medications or restrictions including start date, date of return to school, or changes in activities. For injuries, please provide specific instructions from the physician regarding any restrictions or accommodations related to physical activity, therapy and/or equipment use which should be implemented at the school. The physician should also include a specific time frame for the restrictions. Without this note the student may not be able to participate in his/her regularly scheduled activities, including therapies.

We recommend in all such situations that a parent call the school nurse prior to the student returning. A documentation can be sent in with the student or faxed to the school at _____ prior to his/her return.



Physician Signature

9/3/19

Date



School Nurse Administrator

9/5/19

Date