



# Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

8989 E. Colony Road | Elsie, MI 48831-9725

Phone: 989-834-6375

Fax: 989-834-2717

[www.ovidelsie.org](http://www.ovidelsie.org)

As the pandemic winds down, we find ourselves in a new phase and we will continue to live with small surges of illness. As COVID-19 continues to circulate, I would like to remind everyone that we are also approaching flu season. Many viruses present with the same symptoms. If you have ANY symptoms of an illness and chose to test for Covid-19, a negative test does not mean that you are not infected with another contagious illness.

We have recently seen a rise in illnesses in our district. Our main strategy to keep our school healthy and operational is to have students and staff stay home when not well. I can't stress enough that when your child does not feel well, they won't learn well either. Staying home to rest and take care of your body is good to do, and may even shorten the course of an illness. So while we will continue to offer covid testing at school for any individuals that may desire it, it should NOT be the determining factor of when someone stays in school or not.

Below are the [sick day guidelines](#) for Ovid-Elsie Area Schools and this protocol will be enforced in our district.

Many illnesses do not require a child or staff member to stay home from school. However, students and staff may be excluded if the illness prevents them from participating comfortably in school activities or if there is risk of spread of harmful disease to others. This criteria includes:

1. **Severely Ill:** A child that is lethargic or less responsive, has difficulty breathing, or has rapidly spreading rash.
2. **Fever:** A child with a **temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher AND** behavior changes or other signs or symptoms (e.g., sore throat, rash, vomiting, or diarrhea). The child should not return until 24 hours of no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications. A child with strep throat/scarlet fever should be treated with antibiotics for 12 hours (at least 2 doses) before returning to school.
3. **Diarrhea:** A child has two loose bowel movements, even if there are no other signs of illness. The child should have no loose stools for 24 hours prior to returning to school. **Exception:** A healthcare provider has determined it is not infectious. Diarrhea may occasionally be caused by antibiotics, new foods a child has eaten, or teething. Call the parent to find out if there is a non-medical reason for the loose bowel movements.
4. **Vomiting:** A child that has vomited two or more times. The child should have no vomiting for 24 hours prior to returning to school. **Exception:** A healthcare provider has determined it is not infectious.
5. **Abdominal Pain:** A child with abdominal pain that continues for more than two hours, or intermittent pain associated with fever or other symptoms.
6. **Rash:** A child with a rash AND a fever or a change in behavior. Exclude until the rash subsides or until a healthcare provider has determined it is not infectious. For students with a diagnosed rash, please refer to the chart here for exclusions and required clearance criteria.  
*Note: Rapidly spreading bruising or small blood spots under the skin need immediate medical attention.*
7. **Skin sores:** A child with weeping sores on an exposed area that cannot be covered with waterproof dressing.
8. **Certain communicable diseases:** Children and staff diagnosed with certain communicable diseases, including [COVID-19](#), may have to be excluded for a certain period of time. **See the chart [here](#) for disease-specific exclusions periods.**

For more information, visit my webpage at <https://www.ovidelsie.org/page/school-nurse>