

School Health Services

Because we care about protecting students and their families from contagious diseases...

- Please keep ill students home, or make arrangements with a caregiver when symptoms below are present. Having these symptoms at school *may* place other students and staff at risk of illness.
- Your student will need to be picked up promptly if symptoms occur. Ill students are **not permitted** to stay in the health office all day (while waiting for pick up). If symptoms are persistent, worsen and contacts are unreachable, 911 would be the next option.
* *Notify the office/Nurse if family or emergency contact numbers change or are not working properly.*
- If your student has a contagious illness, please notify the Nurse/Teacher since an exposure may be life-threatening for others with fragile immune systems or certain medical conditions. Also, please provide the **confidential medical documentation** regarding the diagnosis and “return to school” date per health care provider. Fax # 412-469-3357 or sobeckl@wmasd.org or send it to school with students.

Appearance & Behavior: unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused or irritable.

Eyes: White/yellow drainage, crusted eyelashes, redness/pink of eyelid and/or white part of eyeball, itchiness, pain or sensitivity to light. This may be a sign of “pink eye” (conjunctivitis), which is a contagious eye infection that can be spread to both eyes and other students. Your student will be sent home **immediately** for a medical evaluation and authorization to return. *A student may return to school 24 hours after the first dose of prescribed medication.*

Fever: temperatures of 100.0 degrees F or higher. *A student can return to school after he/she has been fever-free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen).* Medication may only mask the fever until it wears off. Never medicate a student for illnesses prior to school.

Ear Pain: especially with fevers, persistent- untreated ear discomfort or drainage. Consider having the student evaluated by a health care provider.

Persistent Nasal Drainage and/or Chronic Cough: Consider keeping your student at home if he/she is experiencing extreme discomfort from cold symptoms such as a persistent “bark-like” cough or severe nasal drainage and chest congestion. These may be signs of a condition that may spread to others or requires treatment. Consider having the student evaluated by a health care provider.

Sore Throat: especially with a fever, redness or swollen glands in the neck. *Any student with a confirmed diagnosis of strep throat may return to school after 24 hours of appropriate treatment.*

Diarrhea or Vomiting: A student with vomiting or diarrhea should stay at home and *return to school only after being symptom free for 24 hours.*

Rash: especially with fevers, itching or severe redness or drainage. Common infectious diseases with rashes are most contagious in the early stages. *A child with a suspicious rash should return to school only after a health care provider has made a diagnosis and authorized the student’s return to school.*

Scabies: students with scabies may *return to school 24 hours after beginning treatment.*

A sick child cannot learn effectively and is unable to participate in classes in a meaningful way. Keeping a sick child home prevents the spread of illness in the school community and allows the child an opportunity to rest and recover. Thank you for your support keeping students safe and healthy.

