

Accident/Illness Policies

The school nurse is responsible for providing nursing care of students who become ill or injured while at school. If an illness or injury is serious or needs medical attention, the school nurse will attempt to notify a parent or guardian as soon as possible. If a life threatening situation is suspected, the school nurse will call 911 without delay, then will notify the parent/guardian and will follow instructions given on the Emergency Medical Authorization form. It is not always clear when a child should be kept home from school due to illness. It is not possible to cover all the scenarios but here are a few guidelines that will help keep everyone healthy.

Guidelines for Childhood Illness and School Attendance:

- **Temperature:** If your child has a fever (a temperature of 100.0 F. or greater) they should remain at home until they have been fever free for a full 24 hours without giving any fever, reducing medication and they have returned to their typical behavior. It is important for you to take your child's temperature before giving the fever-reducing medicine.
- **Vomiting and/or diarrhea:** Your child should remain at home until they have been without any episodes of vomiting or diarrhea for a full 24 hours and have resumed a typical diet. If your child has had any of these symptoms during the night she/he should not be sent to school the following day.
- **Taking antibiotics at home:** According to the Ohio Department of Health, your child should remain at home for at least 24 hours after starting antibiotics. This includes (but not limited to) taking antibiotics for strep throat, pink eye, respiratory infections or any other type of infection that requires antibiotics. Many pediatricians' offices will suggest that your child only needs to stay home for 12 hours after starting antibiotics, but we are following ODH recommendations at this time.
- **Cold symptoms:** Runny noses are a fact of life with little ones. However if the drainage is thick and green or if your child has a persistent or productive cough please have your child stay home and consider consulting with your child's doctor. A constant dry cough can be a sign of more serious respiratory problems and the doctor should be notified.
- **Redness or discharge in the eyes:** Redness of the white part of the eye, burning or itching, yellow or white matter or crusted eyelashes are the signs of pink eye or conjunctivitis. This is very contagious. Your child should remain at home until she/he has seen the doctor and has been on medication/antibiotics for 24 hours.
- **Chicken pox:** Chicken pox is a skin rash consisting of small blisters, which leave scabs. There may or may not be a fever present. Children need to remain at home until all blisters have scabbed over, usually 5-7 days after the first appearance of blisters.

- **Rashes:** Rashes can be difficult to evaluate. Skin rashes of unknown origin should be evaluated by a physician before your child is sent to school.
- **Sore throat:** If your child has a persistent or severe sore throat they should remain at home. You should consider contacting your child's doctor if there is fever, white patches on the tonsils, swollen tender glands, headache, or stomach ache. These could indicate a possible strep infection. If that is the case, your child should remain at home until he/she has had 24 hours of antibiotics, is fever free for 24 hours and has resumed typical activity.
- Please remember that these are just guidelines. If in doubt, keep your child home until he/she can be checked out further or he/she is better. This is also for the benefit of the other children and teachers in the classroom, and will help to keep everyone healthy.

Medication Administration at School

Whenever possible, the administration of medication required for a student during the school day should be given before or after school hours. However, certain students may require the administration of medication during the school day to maintain an optimum health status for learning. ***All medications, both prescription and over-the-counter medications, require an order from a licensed prescriber (i.e. doctor, dentist, nurse practitioner, orthodontist, etc.) before any medication will be administered at school. This includes cough drops, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, etc.***

No medications may come to school without a completed order. Forms are available on the school website under [Visi Vital>Nurse/Absences>Medication Administration](#) or in the nurse's office. The prescribed medication will be administered as ordered by the school nurse or by a designated staff member. All medication must be brought to school in the original container.

Prescription medications are required to have a current prescription label. Over-the-counter medications must be labeled with the student's name. Parents should bring medications to school. School personnel cannot accept responsibility for medications brought to school by a student. All remaining medication must be picked up by a parent/guardian when the order expires or at the end of the school year, whichever comes first. All medications remaining will be destroyed at the end of the last day of school.

Ohio Law allows students to carry and self-administer asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors with specific additional requirements from the parents and licensed prescriber. If you would like your child to carry and self-administer his/her inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector "Epi-Pen," please contact the school nurse for further information.