

## Illness Attendance Policy

As colder weather and flu season approaches, **here are some guidelines for when to keep your child home from school:**

- A **fever** of 100 degrees or higher- do not have the student return to school until the student has been fever free for 24 hours, without the use of over the counter medicine.
- A **“heavy cold or hacking cough”** even without a fever (cough that disturbs normal activity or wakes you up/worsens at night);
- Diagnosis from a health care provider of **Whooping Cough/Pertussis**-student should stay home from school until he/she has received 5 full days worth of antibiotic treatment. Parents can and should ask health care provider to obtain a sputum culture to rule out **Whooping Cough/Pertussis**. *If a cough lasts more than 7 days, worsens in the evening, becomes a cough that causes vomiting, or causes coughing spells that require gasps of air, nose bleeds or bluish color around the lips or face, please have your child evaluated by their health care provider to rule out Whooping Cough/Pertussis.*
- **Vomiting**- student should stay home until he/she can keep food down and is free of symptoms for 24 hours without the use of over the counter medicines.
- **Diarrhea**-student should remain home until free of symptoms for 24 hours without the use of over the counter medicines.
- **Pink eye** (conjunctivitis)-there can be many causes for red eyes, not all of which are communicable. Refer to your health care provider for an evaluation. Student can return to school once they have taken antibiotic eye medication for 24 hours if diagnosed with contagious conjunctivitis.
- **Strep throat**-student can return to school after they have been on antibiotics for at least 24 hours and are fever free.
- **Chicken pox**-exclusion from school for one week after the first eruption appears or all lesions are dry and crusted.
- **Unexplained rash, blisters or draining sores**-student should see his/her health care provider for a diagnosis.

Some rashes may look like “slapped cheeks”.

1. Many illnesses are most communicable at the beginning. If your child is kept home, fewer children will be exposed to the illness. Allowing your child to stay home and get well at the beginning of an illness will actually help him/her to be more successful in school and lose less school time in the long run.
2. **Please be sure to notify your school office of the signs and symptoms your child is experiencing when you call your child in absent.**
3. **Remember- good hygiene and good hand washing techniques can help to prevent many illnesses!**
4. **Also be sure to cover your coughs and sneezes!**
5. **Call your health care provider with any concerns during an illness!**

Thank you!