



**ILLNESS PROTOCOL**  
**HOW SICK IS TOO SICK?**  
**WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME FROM SCHOOL**

**There are 4 main reasons to keep sick children at home:**

1. The child doesn't feel well enough to take part in normal activities (such as overly tired, fussy or won't stop crying).
2. The child needs more care than teachers, staff or the nurse can give and still care for the other children.
3. The illness is on this list and staying home is recommended.
4. Based on a nursing assessment/judgment the child should be at home. The Natrona County School District reserves the right to send a child home at any time, based on the nurse's assessment and judgment.

**And remember, the best way to prevent the spread of infection is through good hand washing.**

<b>Children with the following symptoms/illness should be kept home (excluded) from school:</b>	
<b>SYMPTOMS</b>	<b>CHILD MUST BE HOME?</b>
<b>DIARRHEA</b> Frequent, loose or watery stools compared to child's normal ones that are not caused by food or medicine.	<b>YES</b> - if a child looks or acts sick; if child has diarrhea with vomiting; if child has diarrhea that overflows the diaper or toilet.
<b>FEVER</b> A fever of 100°F or above.	<b>YES</b>
<b>"FLU-LIKE" SYMPTOMS</b> Fever over 100°F with a cough or sore throat. Other flu symptoms can include tiredness, body aches, vomiting and diarrhea.	<b>YES</b> - for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone, without the use of medicine that reduces the fever.
<b>COUGHING</b> <b>Note:</b> Children with asthma may go to school with a written healthcare plan and the school is allowed to give them medicine and treatment with a signed healthcare provider's order at school.	<b>YES</b> - if severe, uncontrolled coughing or wheezing, rapid or difficulty breathing and medical attention is necessary.
<b>Mild RESPIRATORY OR COLD SYMPTOMS</b> Stuffy nose with clear drainage, sneezing, mild cough.	<b>NO</b> - may attend if able to take part in school activities. <i>Keep home if symptoms are severe. This includes fever and the child is not acting normally and/or has trouble breathing.</i>
<b>RASH</b> <b>Note:</b> Body rash without fever or behavior changes usually does not need to stay home from school, call the healthcare provider.	<b>YES</b> with fever and/or nursing judgment; Call the healthcare provider. Any rash that spreads quickly, has open weeping wounds and/or is not healing should be evaluated. <b>NO</b> - without fever and or nursing judgment.
<b>VOMITING</b> Throwing up not related to activity, coughing, or self induced.	<b>YES</b> - until vomiting stops or a healthcare provider says it is not contagious. If the child has a recent head injury. Watch for other signs of illness and for dehydration.



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ILLNESS	CHILD MUST BE HOME?
<b>CHICKEN POX</b>	<b>YES</b> - until blisters have dried and crusted (usually 6 days)
<b>CONJUNCTIVITIS (PINK EYE)</b>	<b>NO (bacterial or viral)</b> children don't need to stay home unless the child has a fever or behavioral changes. Call the doctor for diagnosis and possible treatment.
<b>FIFTH'S DISEASE</b>	<b>NO</b> - child is no longer contagious once rash appears
<b>HAND FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE</b> (Coxsackie virus)	<b>NO</b> - unless the child has mouth sores, is drooling and isn't able to take part in usual activities.
<b>HEAD LICE</b>	<b>NO</b> - See NCSD policy: <a href="http://natronaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/NCSD-HEAD-LICE-PROTOCOL-Dec15.pdf">http://natronaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/NCSD-HEAD-LICE-PROTOCOL-Dec15.pdf</a>
<b>NOROVIRUS</b>	<b>YES</b> - the student must stay home for 24 hours after the last vomiting/diarrhea episode.
<b>SCABIES</b>	<b>YES</b> - for 24 hours after first treatment.
<b>HEPATITIS A</b>	<b>YES</b> - until 1 week after the start of the illness and when able to take part in usual activities.
<b>HERPES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>IMPETIGO</b>	<b>YES</b> - for 24 hours after starting antibiotics
<b>RINGWORM</b>	<b>NO</b> - area must be covered for the first 2 days after treatment has started.
<b>ROSEOLA</b>	<b>YES</b> - if the child has a fever and rash, call the healthcare provider.
<b>STREP THROAT</b>	<b>YES</b> - for 24 hours after starting antibiotics and the child is able to take part in usual activities.
<b>VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES</b> Measles, Mumps, Rubella (German Measles), Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	<b>YES</b> - until the healthcare provider says the child is no longer contagious. Please provide a note from the healthcare provider to the school nurse. <b>Note:</b> If there is a disease outbreak at school all vaccine exempt students may be excluded during the active outbreak per WY state guidelines.

**References:**

- American Academy of Pediatric, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. 2011. Caring for our children: National health and safety performance standards; Guidelines for early care and education programs. 3rd edition. Elk Grove Villiage, IL.
- American Academy of Pediatrics, *Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools*, 3rd Edition, Elk Grove Village, IL 2013
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program, *Infectious Disease in Child Care Settings: Guidelines for Schools and Child Care Providers*, Denver, CO, October 2013
- Children's Hospital of Colorado.