

# Sick Child Guidelines

***No child will be released without a parent/guardian notification.***

It is our goal to keep the school environment as healthy as possible for all children and to protect your child as well as others please keep the following guidelines in mind:

A child **will be sent home** if he or she has:

- ✓ a temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- ✓ a rash/skin eruption, with or without drainage, of unknown origin
- ✓ active vomiting or diarrhea
- ✓ suspected contagious illness
- ✓ a serious injury or appears obviously ill

Please be aware that we encourage students to stay in class when possible. The nurses do not routinely notify parents of minor illness or injury. If you, as a parent or guardian are called by the school nurse, please pick up your child in a timely manner. The nurse will only call home if she feels the child really needs to leave school.

Guidelines for parents to follow to avoid exposing other children to possibly contagious illness and to help prevent excessive clinic visits in school are as follows:

- ✓ Children with a temperature above 100 degrees must be **fever-free for 24 hours** before returning to school.
- ✓ Injuries that happen at home or over the weekend should be taken care of prior to returning to school.
- ✓ If a child vomits or has diarrhea during the night or in the morning before school, that child should be kept at home for **24 hours** from the last episode.
- ✓ If they have red swollen eyes that itch and are draining pus or have a crusty appearance upon awakening, they should be kept home and see a doctor.
- ✓ If they have a productive cough that cannot be controlled with medication they should stay home.
- ✓ If they have been diagnosed with a communicable illness such as chickenpox, impetigo, scabies, lice and/or ringworm, they will need a doctor's note to return to school.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Parents often ask about sending their child to schools with a communicable disease. The Pennsylvania Department of Health offers the following guidelines and exclusion periods:

**Pink Eye:** 24 hours after initiation of treatment

**Strep Throat, Scarlet Fever:** 24 hours after initiation of treatment

**Lice:** Until treated with a pediculicidal agent. Students who have been excluded must be checked by the School Nurse and found to be free of lice eggs before re-entering the building.

**Chicken Pox:** Six days from the outbreak of the last crop of blisters with all pox marks dried

**Impetigo, scabies and ringworm:** Until judged non-infectious by the physician