

**GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNICABLE ILLNESSES**  
**WHEN TO KEEP CHILDREN AT HOME FROM SCHOOL DUE TO ILLNESS**

**CHICKEN POX:** A skin rash of small blisters which leave scabs. A slight fever may or may not be present. There may be blisters and scabs all present at the same time. Your child should remain home until all blisters have scabbed over, usually 5-7 days after the appearance of the first crop of blisters.

**COMMON COLD:** Irritated throat, watery discharge from the nose and eyes, sneezing, chilliness, and general body discomfort. Your child only needs to remain at home if symptoms are serious enough to interfere with your child's ability to learn. Medical care should be obtained if symptoms last beyond 7-10 days, fever develops, or discharge becomes yellow to green.

**FEVER:** Temperature of 100° or higher. Your child should remain home until he/she has been without fever for a full 24 hours.

**FLU:** Abrupt onset of fever, chills, headache, and sore muscles. Runny nose, sore throat, and cough are common. Your child should remain home from school until symptoms are gone and the child is without fever for 24 hours.

**HEAD LICE:** Lice are small grayish-tan, wingless insects that lay eggs called nits. Nits firmly attach to the hair shafts, close to the scalp. Nits are much easier to see and detect than lice. They are small white specks which are usually found at the back of the neck and behind the ears. Following lice infestation, your child may return to school after receiving appropriate treatment and nits have been removed. For more information, please contact the school nurse or the county lice technician (349-1523). The lice technician can provide products needed and assistance in the home with picking nits.

**IMPETIGO:** Blister-like lesions which later develop into crusted pus-like sores near nose & mouth. Your child should remain home from school until receiving 48 hours of antibiotic therapy and sores are no longer draining.

**PAIN:** If your child complains, or behavior indicates that he/she is experiencing persistent pain, he/she should be evaluated by a physician before your child is sent to school.

**PINKEYE:** Redness & swelling of the membranes of the eye with burning or itching, matter coming from one or both eyes, or crusts on eyelids. Your child should remain home from school until receiving 24 hours of antibiotic therapy and discharge from the eyes has stopped. Spread of infection can be minimized by keeping the hands away from the face, good hand washing practices, using individual washcloths and towels, and NOT touching any part of the eyes with the tip of the medication applicator.

**SKIN RASHES:** Skin rashes of unknown origin should be evaluated by a physician before your child is sent to school.

**STREP THROAT AND SCARLET FEVER:** Strep throat usually, (but not always) begins with a fever, sore and red throat, pus spots on the back of the throat, tender swollen glands of the neck. With scarlet fever there are all the symptoms of strep throat as well as a strawberry appearance to the tongue and rash of the skin. High fever, nausea and vomiting may also occur. Your child should remain at home from school until receiving a full 24 hours of antibiotic therapy and until without fever or vomiting for 24 hours. Make sure antibiotic medications are taken & completed as prescribed too completely eliminate the infection from the body. Contact your physician if your child has any trouble while taking the medication.

**VOMITING & DIARRHEA:** Stomachache, cramping, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea, possible fever, headache, and body aches. Your child should remain home until without vomiting, diarrhea or fever for a full 24 hours. **IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS DURING THE NIGHT, HE/SHE SHOULD NOT BE SENT TO SCHOOL THE FOLLOWING DAY.**

***\*CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR THE MOST ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT\****