

Guidelines for Contagious Illnesses

We often have inquiries about school policies and procedures concerning illnesses. In particular, we believe it is important for you as parents to be aware of the illnesses and to know the policy of the school concerning these illnesses and when the child is able to return to school. Our policy is developed by the standards provided by the Ohio Department of Health.

CHICKENPOX: A skin rash consisting of small blisters, then scabs. A slight fever may be present. The illness is transmitted through the air. Your child shall remain home until ALL blisters have scabbed over, usually 5-7 days after the appearance of the first crop of blisters.

CONJUNCTIVITIS (Pink Eye): Redness and swelling of the membranes of the eye with burning and drainage. The illness is transmitted by direct contact with the drainage. Your child shall remain home until receiving 24 hours of antibiotic therapy and the drainage from the eye has stopped.

FIFTH DISEASE: A bright red rash usually on the face or cheek then developing on trunk and extremities, often looking 'lacy'. The contagious period is prior to the rash and is spread through the air. Child can return to school once diagnosed by a medical practitioner and does not have a fever.

HAND, FOOT, MOUTH DISEASE: A virus that may cause fever, painful ulcers in the mouth, and/or small water blisters/red spots on the palms of the hands, soles of the feet, and buttocks. The illness is spread through the air. Child may return to school when the blisters on the hands are not weeping and the child does not have a fever.

IMPETIGO: A bacterial skin illness that develops into blister-like lesions and then later forms crusted lesions. The illness is spread with direct contact from the drainage from the lesions. Your child should remain home until receiving 24 hours of antibiotic therapy AND the sores are no longer draining.

MENINGITIS, BACTERIAL: A bacterial infection that causes extreme illness. High fever, stiff neck, and headache are often seen. The illness is spread through the air or direct contact. Your child shall remain home until receiving 24 hours of antibiotic therapy, fever-free, and has been released by a physician.

MENINGITIS, VIRAL: A viral illness that often causes extreme illness. High fever, stiff neck, and headache are often seen. The illness is spread through the air or with direct contact with the virus. Your child shall remain home until fever-free and has been released by a physician.

MRSA (Staph Infection): A bacterial skin infection that can cause severe body illness. The infection is spread by direct contact with the drainage. Your child shall remain home until fever-free, 24 hours of antibiotic therapy is completed; the draining sore can be covered by a bandage, and has been released by a physician.

RINGWORM: A fungal infection of the skin commonly found on the scalp, feet, trunk, face, and limb areas. Appears as a round, reddened lesion with raised border which clears in the center as it enlarges. The infection is spread by direct contact with lesions. Your child shall remain home until 24 hours of appropriate treatment is completed.

SCABIES: A parasitic rash caused by a mite that enters the skin. Lesions are often found in spaces between fingers, on or inside wrists, elbows, armpits, and trunk. The skin rash is spread by direct skin-to-skin contact. Your child shall remain home until 24 hours of appropriate treatment is completed.

STREP THROAT: A throat infection caused by bacteria. Symptoms include severe sore throat, fever, and swollen lymph nodes. The illness is spread by direct contact with the secretions. Your child shall remain home until 24 hours of appropriate treatment is completed.