



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

HEALTH SERVICES

ILLNESS POLICY

Deciding when to keep your student home from school can be difficult. When a student is sick and needs to stay at home, parents should contact the school and describe the illness and symptoms. If a Health Care Provider makes a specific diagnosis (such as strep throat, conjunctivitis, chicken pox etc.), send in a note from the Health Care Provider with instructions for care at school.

There are several reasons students should stay home from school:

1. The student does not feel well enough to participate in usual activities, and exhibits signs of extreme fatigue, unexplained irritability or persistent crying.
2. The student requires more care than the school staff is able to provide without negatively impacting the health and safety of other students.
3. The student is not vaccinated due to medical or religious reasons and there is an outbreak in the school.
4. The student has an illness that requires them to stay home and/or their Health Care Provider has written they must remain home for a certain amount of time due to illness.

The following list gives guidelines and recommendations for exclusion from school due to specific symptoms or diagnoses:

ILLNESS OR SYMPTOM	EXCLUSION IS NECESSARY
Chicken Pox/Varicella	Yes - Until blisters have dried and crusted (usually 6 days). Must be fever-free per policy.
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)/Eye Discharge (itchy, pink or red eyes with thick mucous or pus draining from the eye)	Yes – May return 24 hours after treatment begins. If your Health Care Provider decides not to treat your child, a note is required. Eyes must be free of discharge, and drainage before returning to school.
Coughing (severe, uncontrolled coughing or wheezing, rapid or difficulty in breathing OR repetitive dry cough accompanied by any of the following: shortness of breath, fever, body aches, chills, sore throat, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea)	Yes - Medical attention may be necessary. Student may not return to school until they have been without a cough for 72 hours, or until a Health Care Provider declares the cause is not communicable. Note: <i>Students with asthma may be cared for in school with a written health care plan and authorization for medication/treatment. For asthmatic students, coughing/wheezing should improve or resolve with use of inhaler. If it does not resolve or worsens, student must be sent home for further treatment or medical evaluation.</i>
COVID -19 Diagnosis Symptoms: *repeated shaking with chills *muscle pain (achy muscles not related to new exercise) *headache (not related to history of migraines) *sore throat *loss of taste or smell *fever (temperature 100.4 F degrees or higher) *cough *shortness of breath/difficulty breathing *diarrhea and/or vomiting	Yes – Until a student receives a negative test result per current CDC Guidelines along with a note from a Health Care Provider that student is not contagious. Must be fever and symptom free for three days without medication. If test results are positive for COVID-19, student may return once their test result is negative. If presumed they may return after 10 days from first symptoms and be fever and symptoms free without medication for three days. Note: <i>If a student has known contact with a positive COVID-19 individual, they will need to stay out of school for 14 days even if symptom free. May return with a Health Care Provider note stating they are not contagious.</i>

Coxsackie Virus (Hand, foot and mouth disease)	No - May attend if able to participate in school activities, unless the student has mouth sores and is drooling, fatigued, or has a temperature of 100.4 F degrees or higher.
Diarrhea – loose or watery stools, with or without mucus and blood Diapered Students – Loose or watery stools that cannot be contained in diaper Toilet Trained Students – Loose or watery stool causing “accidents” with a frequency of no more than 2 stools above the child’s normal frequency	Yes - Exclude until student has no loose or watery stools for 72 hours. Exception: Documentation provided by Health Care provider stating student is not infectious or the diarrhea is caused by diet/medical factors. Stool must be contained in diaper or in toilet (if toilet trained). Any stool leaking through clothing and onto shared surfaces is a health and safety issue for all students and staff.
Fever - An elevation of body temperature above normal.	Yes - when fever is elevated to 100.4 F degrees or higher. Student must remain at home for 72 hours after temperature returns to normal (under 100,4 F degrees) without any fever reducing medication.
Fifth’s Disease (Diagnosed)	No - Student is no longer contagious once rash appears and temperature is within normal limits (under 100.4 F degrees)
Head Lice	Yes - May return after treatment and removal of all live lice and nits from hair. A maximum of 3 days will be excused for this.
Hepatitis A	Yes – Until determined not infectious by a Health Care Provider.
Herpes Zoster	Yes – If area is oozing and cannot be covered, e.g., mouth sores. Otherwise, may return to school.
Impetigo	Yes – Student may return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has begun. Wound drainage must be covered and contained with clean dry bandage.
Molluscum Contagiosum	No – Affected area must be covered by clothing or bandage.
Mononucleosis/Epstein-Barr	Yes - Student must be fever free for 72 hours without fever reducing medications and be able to participate in school activities.
MRSA/Staph Infection	Yes – May return 24 hours after treatment starts. Wound must be covered with dressing taped on all 4 sides. Wound drainage must be covered and contained with clean dry bandage.
Upper Respiratory Symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – large amount of thick nasal discharge – Persistent cough with or without sputum – Shortness of Breath – Difficulty Breathing 	Yes – Seek medical advice. May return when student is symptom free for 72 hours or with a signed Health Care Provider note stating student is not contagious.
Rash	Yes - May return to school when Health Care Provider determines that illness is not communicable, and parent brings in note from Health Care Provider that student may return to school, or rash completely resolves. Note: <i>If rash is accompanied by fever, student must be fever free for 72 hours without fever reducing medications and rash must be resolved prior to returning to school.</i>

Ringworm	<p>No – As long as area can be covered by bandage or clothing. Over-the-counter treatment must begin when student goes home. Area must remain covered at school until ringworm completely resolves.</p> <p>Yes – If ringworm is unable to be covered with bandage or clothing, worsens or spreads, parent must seek medical advice and a note from a Health Care Provider will be required for student to return to school.</p>
Scabies	<p>Yes – May return 24 hours after treatment is started with note from Health Care Provider that student is no longer contagious and/or proof of treatment.</p>
Strep Throat	<p>Yes – May return after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment. If student has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, fever policy must be followed.</p>
Vaccine Preventable Diseases (mumps, measles, rubella, pertussis/whooping cough)	<p>Yes – Until determined not infectious by a Health Care Provider.</p>
Vomiting - 1 episode in the last 24 hours where cause cannot be determined (examples of explainable causes: drinking/eating odd food combinations; history of motion sickness on bus; known food allergy)	<p>Yes - Until there has been no vomiting for 72 hours or Health Care Provider determines that cause is not communicable and provides note for student to return to school.</p> <p>Note: <i>Observe for other signs of illness and for dehydration.</i></p>