

## MCDS: Health Office: Sick Policy

### PURPOSE:

Establish a protocol for when students should be kept or sent home from school due to illness in order to prevent the spread of infection to other children and staff and to allow the child time to rest, recover, and receive treatment.

### IMPLEMENTATION:

Policy was developed with the mindset that healthy children will learn better and get healthier quicker if they stay home and rest. Certain conditions require children to stay home in order to minimize the spread of communicable diseases.

Child will stay at home or be sent home from school if any of the following signs or symptoms are present or have been present in the last 24 hours.

- Fever: A fever of 100.0 (oral) or above within 24 hours of the beginning of school. The child can return to school 24 hours after the temperature returns to normal if it remains normal without the aid of fever reducers.
- Eye Discharge: Red (“blood-shot”) eyes, inflamed, with drainage or yellow crust and bumps on the eyelids is sign that the child should be seen by a healthcare provider. Pink eye is very contagious and anyone with it must not come to school. Students may come back after they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours.
- Nose Discharge: Any non-clear discharge (thick, yellow or green) is an indication of a possible contagious condition.
- Vomiting, diarrhea, severe nausea: Children should remain at home for 24 hours and should be eating well the morning of school and able to keep up with their regular activities when returning to school.
- Sore Throat: Any sore throat associated with fever, white spots in the back of the throat, or swollen tonsils should remain home until the symptoms resolve. A physician’s visit may be warranted.
- Cough: Deep, persistent coughing, cough with the characteristic “seal-bark or “whooping” sound, or labored breathing when at rest should be seen by your pediatrician.
- Rashes: Rashes that are spreading, not improving, weeping discharge, or causing children great discomfort should be checked by a healthcare provider. Suspected impetigo, scabies, ringworm, chickenpox, measles, mumps or rubella are contagious and should be seen by a physician.
- Injuries: If a student’s class participation is severely limited due to an injury (including concussion), the student should not return to school until released by the physician to do so. If participation in physical education classes is not recommended, a

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health care provider's excuse is required detailing the limitations of activity and the length of time to be excused.

- Pediculosis (Head lice): Parents should inform the school nurse of the steps taken to eradicate the lice. An examination will be made by a school representative to verify that no lice or untreated nits are present. <sup>1,2,3</sup>
- Other: Appears to be severely ill, behavioral changes warranting medical attention, persistent abdominal pain, or at the discretion of the school nurse or designated health staff.

Please inform the school nurse if your child becomes ill with a communicable disease. As required by the Wisconsin Department of Health, any of the following communicable diseases require that the child stay home until the appropriate treatment has begun and the designated time of quarantine has been met:

- Strep Throat
- Scarlet Fever
- Impetigo
- Chicken Pox
- Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)
- Fifth's Disease
- Ringworm
- Head Lice
- Whooping Cough
- Measles, mumps, rubella
- For a full list, refer to <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/diseasereporting.htm>

For serious conditions or injuries or for children diagnosed with a communicable disease, a note from the child's primary pediatrician or a hospital discharge summary should be obtained stating when the child may return to school, any restrictions while attending school, and a physician's signature. For further information, please see the School Attendance policy

The school nurse will train faculty and staff on the school's designated sick policy during the start of each school year. If the school nurse or designated health staff is made aware of a student with a communicable disease, the appropriate school personnel will communicate the name of the communicable disease with the families of student's potentially affected by the illness. The confidentiality of the affected student will be maintained. The Director of Facilities will ensure that prompt attention to the cleaning of the facility impacted by illness or injury.

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If school nurse or designated school employee calls emergency contact for child to be picked up from school due to illness or injury, it is expected that the adult will pick-up the child within a reasonable time frame. In an emergency situation or if child is not picked up from school in a reasonable time frame in relation to illness or injury, "911" will be called and emergency response carried out per emergency services protocol.

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Approved by: B.Hebebrand, Dr. Michael Kim

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### References:

1. Burkhart CG. Relationship of treatment resistant head lice to the safety and efficacy of pediculicides. Mayo Clin Proc. 2004;79(5):661– 666
2. Center of Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). Parasites - Lice - Head Lice. Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/gen\\_info/faqs.html](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/gen_info/faqs.html)
3. National Association of School Nurses (2015). Head Lice 101. Retrieved from [https://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/HFLL\\_101\\_2015.pdf](https://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/HFLL_101_2015.pdf)