

# Parent Resources

## Communicable Illnesses in the School Setting

When a child comes to school ill, everyone is at risk of contracting the illness. It is important that all parents and staff follow the Missouri Schools for Severely Disabled (MSSD) policy for illness. This policy is based on guidelines set forth by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. By working together to keep communicable illness out of our school, parents and staff can help build a safer learning environment for MSSD students.

### WHAT REQUIRES EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL?

#### Fever

- 100.4° or higher.
- May return to school 24 hours after last episode of fever or with a note from a physician releasing the child back to school.

#### Diarrhea

- Two or more loose stools while at school or in the previous 24 hours that are not normal for the child.
- May return 24 hours after last episode of diarrhea or with a note from a physician releasing the child back to school.

#### Vomiting

- Two or more times while at school or in the previous 24 hours that is not normal for the child.
- May return 24 hours after last episode of vomiting or with a note from a physician releasing the child back to school.

#### Mouth Sores

- Only if there is a risk of transmitting (through aggression, drooling, spitting, etc.) infection to others.
- May return 24 hours after sores have healed or the risk of transmission has decreased, or with

a note from a physician releasing the child back to school.

#### Rash

- Only if the rash is diagnosed as communicable and is not able to remain covered during school and while on the school bus.
- Exclusion for other symptoms may apply.

#### Eye Drainage, Redness or Pain

- May return 24 hours after treatment is initiated or last episode of drainage, redness and/or pain, or with a note from a physician releasing the child back to school.

#### Wounds or Sores

- Only if the wound or sore is not able to be kept covered during school and while on the school bus.
- May return to school when able to keep the wound or sore covered at all times while at school and on the bus. A note from a physician is requested that includes any wound or sore care and infection information.

Other illness not listed may require exclusion from school.

If a child becomes ill at school, the school nurse will check the child as soon as possible. If the child needs to be picked up from school, the building administrator, nurse, teacher or other designee will contact the parent to have the child picked up.

If a child becomes ill at home, notify the school that the child will be absent and keep him or her home.

If a child is hospitalized for any reason, a note from a physician is required to release the child back to school.

The school nurse will be able to answer any questions that parents may have.



P.O. Box 480; Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480  
Phone: (573) 751-4427

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