

When to Send Students Home

EXCLUSION CRITERIA	EXCLUSION ACTION
Fever: temperature greater than 100.4°F, with or without the symptoms below	Stay at home until temperature is below 100.4°F for 24 hours WITHOUT the use of fever-reducing medication such as ibuprofen (Advil), acetaminophen (Tylenol), aspirin
Skin Rash or Sores: Any new rash if not previously diagnosed by a healthcare provider OR if rash is increasing in size OR if new sores or wounds are developing day-to-day OR if rash, sores or wounds are draining and cannot be completely covered with a bandage.	Stay home until rash is resolved OR until sores and wounds are dry or can be completely covered with a bandage OR until diagnosis and clearance are provided by a licensed healthcare provider.
Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath not explained by situation such as exercise: feeling unable to catch their breath, gasping for air, breathing too fast or shallowly, breathing with extra effort such as using muscles of the stomach, chest, or neck	Seek medical attention; return to school when advised by licensed healthcare provider
Concerning Cough: persistent cough that is not yet diagnosed and cleared by a licensed healthcare provider OR any acute (non-chronic) cough illness OR cough that is frequent or severe enough to interfere with active participation in usual school activities	Stay home until 24 hours after cough resolves. If pertussis (“whooping cough”) is diagnosed by a licensed healthcare provider, student must be excluded from school until completion of a 5-day course of prescribed antibiotics or until cleared for return by the local public health authority. If COVID-19 is diagnosed, exclude until cleared for return by local public health authority
Diarrhea: 3 or more loose or watery stools in 24 hours OR sudden onset of loose stools OR student unable to control bowel function when previously able to do so	Stay home until 48 hours after diarrhea resolves
Vomiting: at least 1 episode that is unexplained	Stay home until 48 hours after last episode
Headache with stiff neck and fever	Refer to provider, exclusion as per provider, or after 24 hours of no fever
Jaundice: yellowing of the eyes or skin (new or uncharacteristic)	Must be seen by a licensed prescriber and cleared before return to school
Concerning eye symptoms: colored drainage from the eyes OR unexplained redness of one or both eyes	Students with eye symptoms who have been seen and cleared by a licensed prescriber may remain in school after indicated therapy has been started
Behavior change: unexplained uncharacteristic irritability, lethargy, decreased alertness, or increased confusion	Refer to healthcare provider. Student should not be at school until health and safety are addressed.
Major health event: may include an illness lasting more than 2 weeks; a surgical procedure with potential to affect vital signs or active participation in school activities; or a new or changed health condition for which school staff is not adequately informed, trained, or licensed to provide care.	Student should not be at school until health and safety are addressed. School staff should follow appropriate process to address reasonable accommodations and school health service provision in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
Student requiring more care than school staff can safely provide	Student should not be at school until health and safety are addressed. School staff should follow appropriate process to address reasonable accommodations and school health service provision in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.