

STUDENT ILLNESS HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

As the new school year starts up, we would like to *review the health policies* at Saint Patrick School. We want to make sure that every child at our school is not unnecessarily exposed to illness. In particular, we want to ensure that the *children in our school who have compromised immune systems are NOT placed in serious jeopardy*. As a Catholic educational community, we are caring and considerate of one another.

SCHOOL NOTIFICATION

Students who are ill *should be kept at home until they are well*. If a student has a fever or is vomiting, they should stay at home until they are *symptom free for 24 hours*. Students who are receiving antibiotic treatment should not return to school until they have been *on the antibiotic for 24 hours*. When a student contracts a *communicable disease* or lice, *the School MUST be notified*, so the school nurse can monitor the situation and notify parents, as necessary.

INDICATION OF DEVELOPING ILLNESSES

Children can become sick quickly. You are the best judge of your child's state of health. Any unusual symptoms or behavior may be indicative of a developing illness that may require the child to remain at home. Attending school may increase the duration and severity of the illness and creates the potential for spreading illness through the classrooms to other students.

COUGH

A *bad cough* or cold symptoms can indicate a severe cold, bronchitis, flu, or even pneumonia. If your child is not acting right, or has a fever or difficulty breathing, check with your physician and observe your child at home.

DIARRHEA/VOMITING

Diarrhea and vomiting make a child very uncomfortable, and being near a bathroom becomes a priority. If your child has repeat episodes of vomiting and diarrhea, accompanied by fever, rash, or generalized weakness, consult your physician. Keep your child at home until he/she is *symptom free for 24 hours*.

FEVER

Fever is an important symptom; when it occurs, along with a sore throat, nausea, listlessness or rash, your child may be carrying something very contagious. School policy follows the medical advice of having the child stay home during the course of a fever and for an *additional 24 hours after the fever* has passed.

STREP THROAT/SCARLET FEVER

Strep Throat and Scarlet Fever are two highly contagious illnesses caused by streptococcal infection. A child with strep or scarlet fever should be kept home and treated with an *antibiotic* at least *24 hours*, be *fever free*, and feeling well enough to

return to school. Obtain a ***note from your physician*** for the school nurse with the date permitted to return back to school.

CHICKENPOX

Chickenpox, a viral disease is very uncomfortable and still highly contagious. If your child has a fever, is itching, and begins to have pink or reddened areas on the back, chest, and or face, consult your physician and inform the school office. The ***lesions must be crusted and completely dried*** before returning to school. Remember, if your child has received the varicella vaccine, they may still get the chickenpox and are still contagious.

IMPETIGO

Impetigo is a highly contagious bacterial skin infection that starts as tiny red dots that turn into circular blisters that pop and ooze. Consult your physician for ***antibiotic and a note*** with the date permitted to return back to school.

CONJUNCTIVITIS

Conjunctivitis (pink eye) is highly contagious and uncomfortable. Signs and symptoms to look for are complaints of burning, itching, and pus discharge from one or both eyes. School policy for exclusion with pink eye is on an ***antibiotic eye drop*** for at least ***24 hours, no drainage*** from the eye, and a permission to return ***note*** from the physician.

EAR INFECTIONS

Ear infections, unless treated properly, can cause permanent hearing loss. Consult your physician for proper diagnosis and treatment and follow the ***24 hour rule for fever and antibiotics***.

HEAD LICE

Head lice, once brought into a home or school can quickly be spread from person to person. Lice are tiny parasites that thrive on warm scalps. Check with your physician for recommended treatment. Due to highly resistant lice, diligent care must be given in all aspects of recommended ***removal of nits and lice*** OR the lice will return.

HEALTHY SCHOOL

Please help to ***control the spread of contagious disease***, especially to those whose immune systems may have difficulty dealing with the illness. ***Let's work together to keep our school a healthy place*** for all of our students. Be sure to ***report the nature of your child's illness*** to the school office.

Thank you for your cooperation. Nancy Sumas School Nurse