

HEALTH OFFICE

EMERGENCY CARE FORM

The main purpose of the emergency care form is to help us to locate the parent in the event of illness or emergency involving your child. Hospitals and private doctors will not give emergency medication or treatment or perform any kind of surgery except when the parent or guardian is present. It is very important that we be able to locate you at any time. Please list phone numbers of neighbors who will know where you are for emergency calls and who may pick up your child when he/she feels ill and you are not at home. In special cases, you may wish to call and give the school secretary a number where you can be reached for the day.

SCHOOL NURSE

A full time nurse is assigned to each of our schools. Students requiring first aid or medication will be handled by the nurse. No medication can be taken by a child without having been dispensed by the nurse. Children should stay home if they are sick.

In addition to providing medical care, the nurse provides screenings as required by NJAC 6A:16 which may include hearing, vision, height, and weight, blood pressure and scoliosis. The school nurse would be happy to talk to you concerning any specific medical or physical problems experienced by your child.

Exclusions From School

Below is a list of most commonly seen illnesses and the exclusion time from school. These exclusions are an effort to control the spread of communicable disease in the classroom. It is understood that balancing work responsibilities with the care of an ill child can be difficult. Many children return to school sick because they are anxious to return or fear missing a special event. It is important to remember that children sent back to school, before they are recovered from an illness for whatever reason, may still be contagious and able to infect others. Children who are not feeling well have difficulty performing well in school.

Not sharing germs by staying home when you are sick is the best way to prevent the spread of illness.

If your child exhibits the following illnesses please adhere to the below procedures for remaining home:

Fever

Any child with a temperature of **100 degrees** or more is excluded from school. Children must be fever-free (*temperature below 100 degrees*) **for a full 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine**, BEFORE returning to school. Children's temperatures do not remain constant throughout the day. It is important to check your child's temperature a few times throughout the day. Not just in the morning or at night, to be certain they have completely recovered from their illness.

VOMITING AND/OR DIARRHEA

Children with stomach viruses often do not have a fever. It is difficult to know whether a child's vomiting or diarrhea is caused by virus, something they ate or some other reason; therefore, any child who vomits or has diarrhea is excluded from school. Children who vomit or have diarrhea must remain home until they **have not vomited or had diarrhea for a full 24 hours**. Children should be **tolerating regular meals** without discomfort.

COUGH

Children who are **coughing continuously** should remain home if; the cough is such that it interferes with their ability **OR** the ability of others to concentrate on school work, **even if they are fever-free**. **Written permission from the parent/guardian** is required in order for children to have COUGH DROPS in school. Because of the potential for choking, students are required to come to the Health Office to have their cough drops.

STREP THROAT

Children diagnosed with **strep throat** must be on **antibiotic therapy for a full 24 hours** before returning to school. They must also be **fever-free for a full 24 hours** before returning to school.

PINK EYE

Children diagnosed with **bacterial conjunctivitis** must be on **antibiotic therapy for a full 24 hours and have no purulent discharge** from the eye(s) before returning to school.

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI)

Children with a fever, cough, and/or sore throat are considered to have **ILI**. Children with ILI should stay home and not go into the community (except to seek medical care) for **AT LEAST 24 HOURS after being fever free without the use of fever-reducing medicine**.

CHICKEN POX

Children diagnosed with Chicken Pox may return to school when exposed scabs are dry.

Infectious Skin Conditions

Student must be on prescribed medical treatment for 24 hours prior to returning to school. For open and/or draining lesions, exposed areas of skin must remain covered while in school.

Diabetes

Diabetes is a serious chronic disease and must be managed 24 hours a day. Students with diabetes will work with the school nurse to develop a health plan. For more information see Board Policy 5338

Allergies in School

Students with severe allergies may be at risk for anaphylaxis, a sudden and severe reaction that can involve various areas of the body. Please see Policy 5331, which has been developed in accordance with the guidelines for the management of life threatening allergies in schools developed by the NJ Department of Education. The roles and responsibilities for managing allergies are outlined in Regulation 5331 D. Parents should inform their school nurse of any concerns they have about severe allergies and the management of the allergy in school.

Exclusions from school for non- illness

Lice

Pediculosis capitis is an infestation of the hair on the scalp. The gold standard for diagnosing head lice is finding a live louse on the head. Students will be sent home if the school nurse determines that the student has lice. Students would be allowed to return to school after proper treatment with an anti-pediculosis shampoo and rechecked by the school nurse. If the child continues to show evidence of live lice infestation, he/she will be excluded until the signs dissipate. If the nurse determines no live lice upon return to school s/he may return to class. If a student returns to school with nits only s/he will return to class. Please contact your school nurse for more information.