



PORT WASHINGTON-SAUKVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

We educate all children to reach their greatest potential.

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

With cold and flu season in full swing, please take a moment to read through this reminder. Deciding when to keep a sick child home from school is not always easy. Having good school attendance is important for our children's success. For some families, a child staying home means an adult missing work. However, when a child is truly sick, they need to stay home in the care of an adult to get well and to prevent spreading illness to others.

The following information may help you decide when to keep your child home. If symptoms occur while at school, the student must be picked up as soon as possible to go home. Please keep the school office up to date with current contact information so you or an alternate contact can be reached if needed.

Fever:

A fever is defined by the American Academy of Pediatrics as a temperature of 100.4°F or above, and is an indication that a child is ill and could be contagious. A child with a fever needs rest and hydration and must stay home. Children must be fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) before returning to school and should feel well enough to fully participate in the program.

Vomiting:

A child who vomits two or more times in a 24-hour period, or who vomits once but has other accompanying symptoms (such as fever, rash, fatigue, etc.), needs to remain home. He/she may return to school once tolerating a normal diet and remaining symptom free for 24 hours.

Diarrhea:

A child who has two or more loose or watery stools in a 24-hour period, or a child who has one episode of loose or watery stool that is accompanied by other symptoms, needs to remain home. He/she may return to school once tolerating a normal diet and remaining symptom free for 24 hours.

Rash:

A child with a skin rash accompanied by a fever needs to remain home. A child with a weeping or crusty rash that cannot be covered needs to remain home. A rash of unknown origin lasting longer than three days, or a rash that is causing significant discomfort, should be evaluated by a medical provider.

Sore Throat:

A child with a mild sore throat, no fever, and otherwise feeling well may be fine to attend school. Sore throats with swollen glands and/or fever should be evaluated by a medical provider. Strep throat can

present without a fever, and can be evidenced by any combination of sore throat, headache, stomachache, nausea/vomiting, “strawberry tongue,” and/or rash. A child with a combination of these symptoms should remain home and be evaluated by a medical provider.

Cough:

A child with a deep or uncontrollable cough that would be disruptive to the learning process should remain home. A cough can be a symptom of a variety of medical conditions and if persistent (lasting longer than two weeks) should be evaluated by a medical provider. A cough in a child with asthma should be evaluated by a medical provider for an exacerbation of asthma.

Pink Eye (conjunctivitis):

Pink eye is a common infectious disease of one or both eyes caused by several types of viruses and bacteria. The eye typically appears very red and feels irritated. It will progress to drainage of mucous and pus or clear liquid from the eye. A child with these symptoms should be kept at home until evaluated by a medical provider. The child may return to school 24 hours after receiving their first dose of medication (if bacterial). Children with viral pink eye can return to school when symptoms have resolved enough for them to participate in the program; and if they are able to follow instructions to avoid touching their eyes and perform frequent hand washing.

Earache:

If a child has an earache, with or without a fever, he/she should be evaluated by a medical provider.

Headache:

A child whose only complaint is a mild headache usually does not need to stay home from school. A child with a significant (bad enough to disrupt their learning process) headache belongs at home until feeling better. Complaints of frequent or more severe headaches should be evaluated by a medical provider.

Thank you for supporting our school community by helping to create a safe environment that promotes student wellness, and assures our children are ready and able to learn. Please contact the District Nurse, Abby Kirchen, at 262-268-6075 or email abby.kirchen@pwssd.k12.wi.us with any questions or if you need any further information.

Thank you,

Abby Kirchen, BSN, RN
District Nurse