

## **School Health Program**

A Division of the MAHEC Family Health Center

## When to Keep Your Student Home from School

There are times when your student should not attend school. Keeping your student home at these times will prevent the spread of illness to other students at school.

If you have questions, please contact your School Nurse, Amy Alday, BSN, RN, NCSN amy.alday@evergreenccs.org

ILLNESS	WHAT TO DO?
Difficulty <b>breathing</b> or other signs of serious illness	Keep student home. See Healthcare Provider.
Chickenpox	Keep student home until they have no new sores for 24 hours AND all sores are dried and crusted. An evaluation by a medical provider is strongly encouraged to provide future proof of immunity to chickenpox and that school nurse must be notified if student has chickenpox.  **During an outbreak (5 cases of more) of chickenpox, students who are NOT vaccinated for chickenpox (Varicella) and have been in close contact with someone sick with the infection will not be allowed at school for 21 days after they were last exposed to chickenpox, even if not sick.
COVID-19 (positive antigen or PCR/molecular test)	<ul> <li>Keep student home until: <ul> <li>It has been at least 5 days after the first day of symptoms (or test collection date if no symptoms); AND</li> <li>It has been at least 24 hours since the student had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND</li> <li>Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving</li> </ul> </li> <li>**Student should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days after the first day of symptoms (or date positive test was collected if no symptoms) to minimize the risk of infecting others unless an exemption to mask use applies. The student may remove their mask sooner following 2 consecutive negative tests 48 hours apart.</li> </ul>
<b>Diarrhea</b> that cannot be controlled and/or has blood/mucus in it or with a fever	Keep student home. See Healthcare Provider.
<b>Fever</b> with oral temperature 100.4 F or higher and not feeling well enough to participate in class	Keep student home until fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medicine such as Motrin or Tylenol.
Head lice	If lice are first found at school, student may stay until end of the day but may not return until treatment has been started and all live lice are gone.
Illness that prevents the student from taking part in class activities easily	Student may return to school when able to take part in activities.

Impetigo	Keep student home until 24 hours after antibiotics have been started.
MRSA	Keep student home if sore is draining and cannot be covered with a clean, dry bandage. Keep student home if they cannot keep from picking at sore.
Pertussis – (Whooping Cough)	Student should not return to school until they have finished all their antibiotics.
Pink Eye with white or yellow discharge or eye pain	Keep student home if they have a fever or are not healthy enough to participate in routine school activities. Students should be seen by healthcare provider if they have eye pain, eye sensitivity to light, blurred vision that continues after any discharge is wiped away, intense eye redness, symptoms that get worse or don't improve, a weakened immune system, or a pre-existing eye condition.
Rash with fever or behavior change	Keep student home until seen by a healthcare provider and treated if needed.
Ringworm	If ringworm is first found at school, student may stay until end of the day if it can be covered. Student may not return until treatment has been started. Area must remain covered until completely healed.
Scabies	Student must stay home until after treatment is complete
Strep throat	Keep student home until 24 hours after antibiotics have been started.
<b>Vomiting</b> 2 or more times within 24 Hours	Keep student home until able to tolerate regular diet.

Mountain Area Health Education Center Biltmore Campus
123 Hendersonville Road / Asheville, NC 28803 / Phone (828) 258-0670 / www.mahec.net