

When should I keep my child home from school?

Every day, before coming to school, we ask parents/guardians to check and ask their child if they have any of the following symptoms and/or exposure:

- Fever – temperature 100.4 degrees or greater.
 - Cough
 - Rash
 - Sore throat/swollen glands
 - Shortness of breath
 - Runny nose or congestion
 - Diarrhea
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Fatigue
 - Headache
 - Muscle pain
 - Lack of appetite
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Red, itchy, watery eyes
 - Persistent earache
 - Close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
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- We ask students who have had any of the above symptoms in the past 24 hours to stay home from school and/or until symptoms resolve without medication to relieve symptom(s).
 - We ask students who have taken any fever-reducing medications such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen in the past 24 hours to stay home until they are fever-free without the use of medication for 24 hours.
 - We ask students who feel healthy but have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 to stay home and monitor their health until 7-10 days after their last exposure, depending upon specific circumstances:
 - If a close contact remains symptom-free and **tests negative** for COVID-19 on day 5, 6 or 7 after exposure, they may end quarantine at the end of day 7, with return to activities on day 8 with proof of test results.
 - **Without a test** to confirm a negative status, close contacts who remain symptom-free may end quarantine at the end of day 10 with return to activities on day 11.

What happens if my child is sent home from school?

A student will be sent home with any of the following:

Temperature of 100.4 degrees or more

Nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea

Symptoms related to possible communicable disease (skin rashes, redness of eyes, swollen glands, etc.)

Excessive drainage from eyes, ears, persistent earache, constant cough; or painful sore throat accompanied by enlarged lymph nodes

Students with (or having the potential to transmit) an acute infectious disease or parasite

Head lice and/or nits

If a student is sent home from school due to illness, the student must remain at home for the full school day following the day dismissed. In addition, the student must be symptom free without administration of any fever reducing medications or other medications to relieve symptoms for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

If a student is sent home with COVID-19 like symptoms, the student may return when student has:

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for at least 24 hours **and**
- Improvement of symptoms without use of medication to control symptoms, **and**
- Written documentation of differential diagnosis (allergies, ear infection, strep, contact dermatitis, etc.) from MD/DO/appropriately supervised NP, including a statement from the provider regarding not recommending COVID-19 testing.

If the parent/guardian does not choose to contact the student's provider for symptom evaluation and/or seek COVID-19 testing, the student is excluded for 10 days.

Students returning to school after injury, including concussion and/or surgery with crutches, casts or slings should present a physician release to return to school along with a written request for any necessary modifications or accommodations.

Please discuss any questions regarding when to return to school with the school nurse and/or health services.

HEAD LICE ABSENCE/EXCLUSION

It is the expectation of Springfield Public Schools that students excluded for head lice/nits should be treated immediately and return promptly back to school. Students should not stay home for an extended period related to head lice.

When initially excluding a student for head lice, the school nurse or designee will notify the student's parent/guardian to pick up the child and will provide treatment instructions to the parent/guardian. The student may return to school after treatment and nit removal (This could be the same day of exclusion). Upon return to school, the school nurse or designee will check the student's hair before the student can return to class. If lice or nits are still present, the school nurse or designee will send the student home for further treatment.

If the student does not return to school on the day following exclusion for head lice, the Attendance Advisor will contact the parent/guardian and/or will make a home visit.

Absences for students not returning on the day following the initial head lice exclusion will be coded Elective.