



River Valley School District

Tara Anding, District Nurse

660 West Daley, Spring Green, WI 53588

Phone: 608-588-2556 email: tanding@rvschools.org

Knowing When to Keep a Sick Child Home from School

As a parent, there are times when you may be unsure whether or not to send your child to school. School attendance is very important, but keep in mind that school may not be the best place for your child when he/she is ill, for a couple of reasons:

1. Illnesses can be passed easily to others, in a classroom setting
2. Learning is more difficult when a child is not feeling well

Please be aware of signs and symptoms of illness, and keep your child home if he/she has the following:

- ◆ Temperature equal to or higher than 100.5 degrees (before taking medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen). The child should be without fever for 24 hours, prior to returning to school.
- ◆ Vomiting or Diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- ◆ Persistent or severe sore throat
- ◆ Rash with a fever, until fever subsides and a health care provider has determined the rash is not a contagious disease
- ◆ Symptoms of a contagious illness such as chicken pox, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough). May return as directed after evaluation by a healthcare provider.
- ◆ Chickenpox: All lesions must be crusted or scabbed over. No draining lesions can be present
- ◆ Constant cough or complaints of difficulty breathing or rapid breathing
- ◆ Mouth sores with drooling, unless the child's health care provider states the child is not infectious

REMINDER: If your child has been prescribed an antibiotic for a contagious illness (i.e. strep throat or impetigo), he/she should be on the prescribed medication, and fever free, for 24 hours prior to returning to school.

HAND WASHING IS THE # 1 WAY TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF GERMS.

Please don't hesitate to call with any questions regarding the health of your child.

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