

As the new school year begins, we want to inform you of some changes to our processes that will minimize the spread of illnesses such as the flu and COVID-19. It is your school's goal to ensure a safe return for students and staff, and we ask for your cooperation. Many symptoms resemble a multitude of illnesses, and only your child's healthcare provider can determine the exact cause of the symptoms.

When a child becomes sick during the school day, the parent will be notified to pick up the child within 45 minutes. The symptoms that will result in a child being sent home from school include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. The child will be sent home and will be permitted to return to school after the following criteria has been met:

**Criteria #1:**

- A minimum of ten days has past AND
- The last 24-hours must be fever-free without fever-reducing medications AND
- All symptoms must have improved.

Your child will be sent home with a note that states the date the student may return. Your child will NOT require a doctor's note to return to school on the date noted on the home instructions. We encourage you to consult your healthcare provider about your child's symptoms. If your healthcare provider feels that your child is ready to return to school before the specified date on the home instructions, please request a doctor's note that states this is a "Non-COVID related illness" with a the return date specified.

We encourage you to promote the health of your child by teaching him or her to prevent the spread of infection. These strategies include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, like tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles).

▪ (CDC, August 8, 2020)

If you have any questions, please reach out to your principal or school nurse.