

Denison Community School District Illness Policy

For students to optimally participate in their education, the child needs to be at their highest level of wellness. Students need to be protected from communicable illness while attending school. For the safety and health of all the students, the students with the following illnesses/symptoms should remain home or may be sent home from school after being assessed by the nurse/certified personnel.

Fever: if your child's temperature is 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, keep them home. Encourage rest and fluids. Your child's temperature must remain below 100.5 degrees for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication before they can return to school.

Vomiting/Diarrhea (2 or more loose stools): if your child is experiencing either symptom, keep them home until they have gone 24 hours without an episode. Vomiting and diarrhea usually occur with an infection or a contagious disease.

Strep throat: a severe sore throat could be strep, even without a fever. Other symptoms of strep throat are headache and an upset stomach. Students with strep can return to class 24 hours after antibiotics have been started. There should be no fever present.

Pink Eye: your child does not need to be excluded unless they have a fever or are unable to participate comfortably in school activities while leaving the infected eye alone, if symptoms persist a doctor's appointment may be required before returning to school

Head Lice: if your child has head lice, keep your child home to treat him/her and then he/she can return to school after treatment. If the lice is found at school your child will need to be treated before they can return. They do not need to be sent home! Nits (eggs) should be observed and continue treating and combing.

Rash: a child with an unidentified rash that is spreading, draining, and/or getting worse over time should be kept home and checked by a doctor.

Communicable diseases: students with Chicken Pox, Impetigo, Influenza, active Tuberculosis, Mumps, Measles, Norovirus, Pertussis (whooping cough), COVID - 19, etc. should be kept at home until a doctor releases them to come back to school. Please report any of these to the school nurse right away.

COVID-19: Students who test positive should remain home until they are no longer infectious.

- Stay home for 5 days
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can come to school. If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

Students who have been exposed to COVID-19 may attend school as long as they are asymptomatic. Wearing a mask is encouraged. If they develop any symptoms after being exposed we ask that you please stay home.

Persistent symptoms: nasal congestion, reddened eyes, sore throat, cough, or headaches that disrupt the student's learning or pose a risk of illness to others. Professional discretion will be used to evaluate any students with the above symptoms.

The above conditions should be given serious consideration. Any child with these conditions should NOT be sent to school, and WILL BE sent home if these occur at school. **Students will be sent home for any other health condition that, in the school nurse's judgment, is of concern for the health and well being of the child and others.**

The school nurse or another school representative will contact you if your child becomes ill or seriously injured at school. If a parent cannot be reached, other individuals listed on the emergency form will be contacted. For the child's safety, students will be released only to adults whose names appear in the emergency contacts. If at any time this information changes, please notify the school immediately. If we are unable to contact the parents or emergency contact in an event of an emergency, the school will transport to the nearest hospital at the parent's expense or call 911 if necessary.

If you are at all concerned that your child may be too sick to come to school, please keep your child home. This is important to keep our staff and other students healthy!

If your child texts or calls you while they are at school telling you that they are sick, please let them know they need to see the nurse first. They will not be sent home from school for being sick without first seeing the nurse or another school representative.

Prescription Medications

If your child requires prescription medication to be given while at school a Medication Consent form will need to be filled out. This needs to be done yearly. The medication must be in a container which is labeled either by the pharmacy or the manufacturer with the name of the child, name of the medication, and the time(s) to be given. We WILL NOT accept medication in bags, envelopes, or any other type of container.

Students are not allowed to keep medications in their locker or school bag.