

Montgomery County Schools Protocols for Student Illness

In an effort to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff, all schools shall abide by these protocols. Any student having/exhibiting to staff any of the following signs and symptoms of illness, shall not stay at, or come to school or school child care. Questions may be addressed to District Health Services Coordinator Shanda Brewer via email to Shanda.brewer@montgomery.kyschools.us.

Fever of 100.0 F or more orally. (99.0 F Axillary)—Generally a sign of infection and is the body's natural defense to illness. Many illnesses present with a low-grade fever.

An unidentified rash, especially if there are any open areas/bleeding from scratching or student also has a temperature of 100.0 or more orally—many rashes are contagious or indicate a contagious illness. The child needs to be seen by his/her healthcare provider.

Vomiting an/or Diarrhea are generally signs of illness. The child may need to be seen by healthcare provider if no rapid improvement. (District protocols are followed for exclusion/referral)

A persistent earache and/or is pulling at his/her ears, especially with a fever —These are generally signs of an ear infection and the child needs to be seen by his/her healthcare provider.

Sores/Open Sores and/or crusting of the skin around the nose and mouth generally indicates a skin infection and the child needs to be seen by his/her healthcare provider.

Extreme redness of the “whites” of the eyes; excessive tearing and itching of the eyes; yellow or green discharge in or around the eyes generally indicates an eye infection and the child needs to be seen by his/her healthcare provider or eye doctor. Kentucky Department of Education guidelines state that ALL suspected cases of conjunctivitis (pink-eye) must be referred to a healthcare provider.

A chronic, “croupy” or “barky” cough or excessive & constant colored nasal discharge generally indicates a respiratory illness and can compromise effective breathing. The child may need to be seen by healthcare provider and will be referred by school health services.

Signs or symptoms of the flu or other severe illness such as unusual lethargy (lifeless) or, difficulty breathing, or signs of significant pain—The child needs to see his/her physician to rule out severe illness.

Students sent home for fever, vomiting, diarrhea or other potentially contagious illness as determined by the school health unit are excused from school that day AND the day following.

All illnesses determined to be contagious by a healthcare provider must be treated with antibiotics for a minimum of 24 hours before student may return to school.

Students may not return to school or daycare until well (no fever, no vomiting, no diarrhea) without medication for a full day--unless a physician determines them not contagious and sends a note stating such to the school.

If we all follow these simple rules, we will greatly reduce the passage of infectious illness in our schools. Parents please keep in mind that during times when there are increases in contagious illness such as the flu, exclusion time from school may be extended if deemed necessary.