

## Denison Community School District Illness Policy

For students to optimally participate in their education and our programs, the child needs to be at their highest level of wellness. Students need to be protected from communicable illness while attending school and activities. 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 or activity after being assessed by the nurse/certified personnel.

*Fever*: if you child's temperature is 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, keep them home. Encourage rest and fluids. Your child's temperature must remain below 100.4 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*: tearing, redness, and puffy eyelids and/or eye discharge should be checked by a doctor before coming to school. The most common causes of acute conjunctivitis are bacteria, viruses, allergens, or sometimes irritation from toxic chemical exposure.

*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), 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*: do not send your child to school or activities if they are experiencing any of the following:

- Symptoms: Fever – over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, runny nose, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or any other flu-like symptom.
- Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and/or tested positive for COVID-19.

- Been around someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or tested positive for COVID-19. This includes living in the same household or spending time within six (6) feet of someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or tested positive for COVID-19.

Please report any of the above to the school immediately.

Complete Guidance from Iowa Department of Education and Iowa Department of Public Health on evaluating sick students (COVID): [Click for Link](#)

Students with symptoms (and who choose not to seek an evaluation from a healthcare provider) may not return to school until the later of the following:

- Have had no fever for at least 24 hours (that is one full day of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) AND
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved)  
AND
- At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

**IF YOU HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19 YOU MUST HAVE A DOCTORS NOTE OR A NOTE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH IN ORDER TO RETURN TO SCHOOL OR ACTIVITIES.**

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 or activities, and WILL BE sent home if these occur at school or activities. **Students will be sent home for any other health condition that, in the school nurse's judgement, 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 or activities. 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 or participate in an activity, 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 unless they meet board policy guidance.**