

McDowell County Schools Illness Guidelines

There are times when your child should not attend school. Keeping your child home at these times will prevent the spread of illness to other children at school. If your child is not feeling his/her best, please use the following guidelines to determine whether he/she should be in school.

	Child should NOT be at school or in contact with other children:	If child feels well enough, he/she may attend school:
Head Lice	When they have LIVE lice	When treatment has been started and <u>ALL LIVE</u> lice are gone
Difficulty Breathing	Difficulty breathing or other signs of serious illness	Symptoms have resolved or have been seen by a doctor
Fever	If temperature is above 100.4 or if symptoms of headache or cough accompany any elevated temperature	If temperature is below 100.4 for 24 hours WITHOUT taking a fever reducing medication such as Motrin or Tylenol, and there are no other symptoms
Diarrhea or Vomiting	One episode of vomiting. More than one occurrence of diarrhea that cannot be controlled	Single incident of diarrhea with NO other symptoms such as fever or vomiting, must be 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting
Strep Throat/Scarlet Fever	Sore throat, headache, nausea, fever (children do not always have fever or complain of sore throat) The only way to rule out Strep is with a throat culture	After 24 hours on antibiotics and fever free for 24 hours WITHOUT fever reducing medications such as Motrin or Tylenol
Pink Eye/Conjunctivitis	Eye is red with complaint of burning or itching, crusty, white or yellow drainage is occurring	After being seen by a doctor and 24 hours after first dose of medicine, if prescribed
Rash/Skin Infection	Any child with rash or signs of skin infection not having been evaluated by a doctor	Rash free, a written release from doctor, or after 24 hours on medication for skin infection
Chicken Pox	Itching with pink/red spots with blister type center, fever	Lesions crusted over and dry, no fever
Flu	Fever with temperature above 100.4 accompanying sore throat, cough, runny nose, congestion, body aches, extreme tiredness, vomiting, or diarrhea	If temperature is below 100.4 for 24 hours WITHOUT taking a fever reducing medication, such as Motrin or Tylenol, or release from doctor if diagnosed with any type of flu
Impetigo	Sores on the skin that produce a thick golden-yellow discharge that dries and crusts	24 hours after antibiotics have been started

If you think your child might have a fever, please check his/her temperature before sending him/her to school. Your child should **NOT** be sent to school until he/she has been fever free for at least 24 hours without taking a fever-reducing medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen. Please contact your child's school if you have any questions.