

TO: Parents
FROM: Sue Blaha, RN; Jennie Thompson, RN; Jean Roy, RN
DATE: September 24, 2007
RE: Guidelines for attendance

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! I think we are all settling into our new schedules quite nicely. Before the weather changes and we enter cold and flu season, we would like to let you know that we are already working to minimize the spread of diseases in the school setting. Some of the measures we are taking include: frequent hand washing by both students and staff, wiping down common surfaces after use and providing plenty of soap, hand sanitizers and tissues. As parents, you can also help to keep our students and staff healthy by referring to these following guidelines for attendance.

1. Children who are ill should remain at home.
2. Children should be fever free, without medication, for 24 hours before returning to school. A fever is a temperature over 100 degrees.
3. Children should remain home with an unexplained rash.
4. Children experiencing significant discomfort from cold symptoms, such as nasal congestion and a productive cough should remain home. A continuous green discharge from the nose may be a sign of infection.
5. Children with vomiting and diarrhea should be kept home until symptoms have resolved for approximately 12 hours and the child is able to keep down food and liquid.
6. Children should remain home if cold and cough symptoms are associated with a fever, do not readily improve, your child's stamina and appetite are low or they are just feeling miserable. A sick child cannot learn effectively and is unable to participate fully in school activities.
7. The nurse will evaluate students and determine if a child needs to go home due to illness. Should you receive a phone call to pick up your child, please do so promptly.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation regarding these health issues. It is our hope that we will be able to prevent the spread of illness in the school setting, helping to keep all children and staff well. Remember-sick children belong at home-well children belong in school.

Very truly yours,

Your Cape Cod Collaborative
classroom nurses

Sue, Jennie, and Jean