

Exclusion from School Due to Illness Policy **See COVID-19 Protocols for additional policies**

Symptoms of illness can appear suddenly; they progress rapidly in children, and infections spread easily in school settings. Many of our children are very susceptible to viruses.

In an attempt to minimize the spread of illness, we are requesting that you keep your child home if he/she exhibits any of the symptoms described below. If you are unsure as to whether or not your child's symptoms are indicative of an illness, we are requesting that you keep your child home for the day. Unusual behavior changes or sleep patterns may also be indicative of the onset of illness. **If your child is sent home due to illness, or becomes sick at home, keep him/her home for at least 24 hours after ALL symptoms have subsided AND is fever-free without use of fever reducing medications for 24 hours.** A child sent back to school too soon will usually be more susceptible to other illnesses and may put other students at risk.

In the event the West Hartford or Bloomfield Health Districts determine a possible outbreak of a communicable illness; they will determine how long a student with symptoms must remain out of school. It is essential that all students exhibiting symptoms comply with Health District regulations to maintain the health and safety of all students and staff.

SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS REQUIRING YOUR CHILD TO STAY HOME OR BE REMOVED FROM SCHOOL

Fever:	Temperature of 100.4° F or higher.
Diarrhea:	One or more episodes of watery or loose stools.
Vomiting:	Two or more times in a 14-hour period.
Body Rash:	Rashes are frequent occurrences in children. However, if the rash is accompanied by fever, or causes severe itching or discomfort, your child should remain at home until the symptoms disappear or are treated by a physician who gives you a written clearance for him/her to return to school.
Eye Discharge:	Thick mucus or yellow/green drainage from the eye, crustiness along eyelids which appears after cleaning, or "pink eye."
Earache:	Children can experience much pain with an earache and are more comfortable at home.
Sore Throat/ Fever/ Swollen Glands:	Severe sore throat especially accompanied by fever and/or swollen glands may be strep throat. Strep throat requires treatment with antibiotics. The child MUST be on antibiotics for at least 24 hours before he/she can return to school. Please do not hesitate to keep your child at home longer if the complaints are not greatly improved after only 24 hours.
Runny Nose/Cough:	Runny noses and coughs are frequent during the winter and the spring. If your child coughs continuously, has thick yellow/green nasal or mucous drainage, or requires frequent wiping of nasal mucous drainage, please keep him/her home. Should these symptoms develop at school we will request that you take him/her home.
Irritability/ Excessive Sleepiness:	Excessive sleepiness, irritability, or unusual behaviors, especially in younger children may be indicative of the onset of illness. Children are uncomfortable, unhappy, and do not benefit from the classroom at these times.

Procedure for Students Returning to School after Significant Illness, Injury or Surgery: **See COVID-19 Protocols for details pertaining to return to school documentation**

To maintain the health and safety of our students, it is essential that we receive current information on a child who is returning to school after a period of absence.

If a student is absent for three or more consecutive days, is hospitalized, has a need to go to the Emergency Room, or has a change in their functional status (i.e. change in weight bearing status, functional restriction, etc.) due to medical or mental health needs, illness or injury, please provide the school nurse with discharge paperwork from the hospital or documentation from the physician noting any change in medications, recommendations, or restrictions including start date, date of return to school, or changes in activities. For injuries, please provide specific instructions from the physician regarding any restrictions or accommodations related to physical activity, therapy and/or equipment use which should be implemented at the Gengras Center. The physician should also include a specific time frame for the restrictions. Without this note the student may not be able to participate in his/her regularly scheduled activities, including therapies and may not be permitted to return to school.

We recommend in all such situations that a parent, guardian, or medical provider call the school nurse at **860-231-5277** prior to the student returning. All documentation can be sent in with the student or faxed to the Gengras Center at 860-231-6795 prior to his/her return.