

A Letter from the School Health Office

Tips for Parents from the School Health Office

Many parents ask, “When is my child sick enough to stay home from school?”

This is not always an easy question to answer! We hope that these tips can help!

A child who is sick will not be able to perform well in school and is likely to spread the illness to other children and staff. We suggest making a plan for childcare ahead of time so you will not be caught without a comforting place for your child to stay if he/she is ill.

Our school policy states that you should not send your child to school if he/she has:

- Vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- Fever of 100.4 or greater in the past 24 hours
- Pink Eye - red, itchy, or painful eyelids with yellow or green discharge
- Impetigo - red, itchy, weeping rash
- Head Lice - Poplarville School District has a “bug free” policy.
- Any undiagnosed rash, i.e. chickenpox

It is a good idea to stay home and follow up with your doctor for any above conditions and for:

- a very runny nose or bad cough, especially if it has kept the child awake at night
- a sore throat that prevents the child from eating and drinking normally

If your child becomes ill at school and the school nurse feels your child is too sick to benefit from school or is contagious to other children, you will be called to come and take him/her home from school. It is essential that the nurse has a phone number where you can be contacted during the day and an emergency number in the event you cannot be reached. Please be sure that arrangements can be made to transport your child home from school and that childcare is available in case of illness. If your daytime or emergency phone number changes during the year, please notify your school office.

These guidelines are meant to serve the best interests of all the children in school. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call your child’s school nurse.