

## ILLNESS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASE MEMO

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In order to promote a healthy environment at school for our students, please be alert to early signs and symptoms of illness in your child. Keeping your child home while they are ill, until he/she is fully recuperated, will help prevent the spread of illness to others in the school.

Your child should be kept at home when the following symptoms are present:

- Fever of 100 degrees or greater
- Vomiting

**Symptoms you should watch for**, that may prevent him or her from participating in school, such as:

- Excessive tiredness or lack of appetite
- Productive coughing, sneezing
- Headache, body aches, earache, sore throat
  - A minor sore throat is typically not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be strep throat even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat in children are headache and upset stomach. Contact your child's primary health care provider for further testing

Students who show signs of communicable disease must be kept at home. If your child has signs of a communicable disease, please notify the school office. For communicable disease symptoms, modes of transmission, exclusion criteria, and more important information, please refer to the Wisconsin Childhood Communicable Diseases Chart on the following link: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p4/p44397.pdf>

Please keep your child home until his or her fever has been gone for 24 hours without medication. Returning to school too quickly may slow the recovery process and expose others unnecessarily to illness. If your child is absent from school, please contact the school office to notify them if it is due to illness or other reasons.

It is important that contact names and phone numbers are kept up to date in Infinite Campus. If your child becomes ill while at school, we must have a working number to contact you and/or someone else in case you are unavailable.

If your child is prescribed medication that must be given during the school day. There must be a medication authorization form completed and signed by both parent and health care provider. This form is provided on the following link: [https://www.ripon.k12.wi.us/cms\\_files/resources/Medication%20Authorization%20Form2.pdf](https://www.ripon.k12.wi.us/cms_files/resources/Medication%20Authorization%20Form2.pdf)

Medication must be in its original container and must match the health care provider orders.

**Tips to promote staying healthy:**

- Good hand washing prevents the spread of germs. Use plenty of soap with warm water. Proper hand washing should take about 20 seconds.
- Teach your child to cough or sneeze into a tissue or their sleeve
- Keep your child's environment tobacco free
- Keep an annual well-child exam to follow changes in your child's health
- After your child is feeling better, clean all surfaces and wash their bedding
- Keep surfaces like doorknobs, phones, remote controls, toys, and keyboards clean