

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO SCHOOLS: EXCLUSION AND ABSENTEEISM DUE TO ILLNESS**

### **Exclusion**

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, Managing Infectious Disease In Child Care and Schools (2013), exclusion from school due to illness recommendations are as follows:

Child should be excluded: if the illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities as determined by the staff of the childcare program or school.

If the illness results in a greater need for care than the staff of the program determine they can provide without compromising their ability to care for other children.

If the child has any of the following conditions, unless a health professional determines the child's condition does not require exclusion.

- Appears to be severely ill – this could include lethargy/lack of responsiveness, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, or having a quickly spreading rash.
- Fever (temperature above 101° F) orally, and behavior change or other signs and symptoms (e.g. sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea).
- Diarrhea – defined by more watery stools or decreased form of stool that is not associated with changes of diet.
- Blood or mucus in the stools not explained by dietary change, medication, or hard stools.
- Vomiting more than 2 times in the previous 24 hours, unless the vomiting is determined to be caused by a non-communicable condition and the child is not in danger of dehydration.
- Mouth sores with drooling unless the child's physician or local health department authority states that the child is non-infectious.
- Rash with fever or behavioral changes, until a physician has determined that the illness is not a communicable disease.
- Tuberculosis, until the child's physician or local health department states child is not infectious, on appropriate treatment, and can return.
- Impetigo, until 24 hours after treatment has been started.
- Streptococcal pharyngitis (i.e. strep throat or other streptococcal infections), until 24 hours after treatment has been started.
- Scabies, until after treatment has been given.
- Chickenpox (Varicella), until all lesions have dried or crusted (usually 6 days after onset of rash).
- Persistent abdominal pain (continues for more than 2 hours) or intermittent abdominal pain associated with fever, dehydration, or other signs or symptoms of illness.
- Any child determined by the local health department to be contributing to the transmission of illness during an outbreak.

Please phone Sheboygan County Division of Public Health (920-459-4382) with questions.

### **Absenteeism**

Suggestions to schools regarding absenteeism are as follows:

1. If your school absenteeism rate for staff and/or students is 10% or greater, or if you notice clusters of similar illness, you are asked to inform Public Health (920-459-4382) or faxing (920-459-0529). Communicable disease control is Public Health's responsibility and your assistance in our ability to do surveillance is crucial to a healthy school and community environment. Public Health can give guidance to school personnel regarding recommendations for health monitoring, environmental cleaning, and exclusion in order to control the spread of the disease.
2. Via newsletters, school handbooks, flyers, and by your school website, information regarding when to keep your child home can be disseminated at the beginning of the school year, as well as throughout the year as necessary.
3. Health room logs monitoring illness at school as well as logging daily absentees with reason for absence is very important in tracking illness and seeing patterns of illness. Communicable diseases such as influenza, strep throat, and vaccine preventable illnesses can be monitored and reported to Public Health before outbreaks occur. Refer to Reporting of Communicable Diseases in the School Setting (attached) to assist you in identifying illnesses which you are mandated to report to Public Health.
4. If at any time questions arise, please don't hesitate to phone Public Health. Our objective is to keep our children as healthy as possible which, in turn, will enhance their learning.