

Groves Elementary Illness Guidelines

When should my child stay home?

Many parents are faced with the decision of whether to keep their sick child home or send him/her to school. Although school attendance is important, a sick child cannot learn effectively and is unable to participate in class as usual. Keeping a sick child home prevents the spread of illness and allows the child an opportunity to rest and recover. Your child should remain home if he/she has any of the following symptoms:

- **Fever greater than 100 degrees:** Your child must remain at home until the fever is below 100 degrees without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours
- **Vomiting and/ or diarrhea:** Your child must remain home until he/she is symptom free for 24 hours
- **Severe cold symptoms/Upper respiratory infection:** Consider keeping your child home if he/she is experiencing discomfort from cold symptoms
- **Conjunctivitis (Pink eye):** Your child may return to school with a written physician's release
- **Any wound/sore oozing fluid or pus**
- **Any rash that has not been diagnosed by a physician**
- **Head or body lice:** Your child may return to school with the approval of the school nurse after they have received treatment. Please provide written proof of treatment to the school nurse.
- Any other condition that you think may be serious or contagious to others.

What if my child needs medication while at school?

If your child needs a prescription medication, a form must be completed and signed by the physician and parent before the school nurse can administer the medication. If your child requires over-the-counter medication, the medication must be brought to school in the original, unopened container and a form must be completed and signed by the parent. Please notify the school nurse and she will give you the appropriate form.

Please call in the morning to report your child's absence. Upon returning to school, please send a note excusing your child's absence. Please include the following in the note: child's name, date(s) absent, reason for absence, and parent or physician signature. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school nurse at (409)962-1531 x6104.

Thank you,
Paige Austin, BSN, RN
School Nurse