

HEALTH PROTOCOL

Dear Parents:

In order to ensure that schools remain a safe and healthful environment, this health protocol has been developed by the RSU 83/M.S.A.D. #13 Board of Directors.

- I. We cannot risk the possibility of infection to the other students when a sick youngster is sent to school or becomes ill at school. If your child has developed any of the following symptoms during the previous 24 hours, he/she should remain at home the next school day.
 - fever greater than 100 degrees F. The temperature should be normal for 24 hours before returning to school.
 - congestive cough
 - vomiting
 - diarrhea
 - discharge that is other than clear from nose, eyes, mouth, ears or any other areas
 - skin rash

- II. If a student arrives at school or develops any of the previously listed symptoms, you will be notified and expected to take your child home. If you cannot be reached, the available contact on the emergency card will be called. (If you have not provided the school with emergency contacts, please do so immediately.) Students sometimes are not able to specify what is wrong or how they feel. Thus, staff must use their own judgment to determine if the student can benefit from an educational setting at that time. When, in the judgment of the student's teacher, principal, secretary and/or school nurse, a student shows signs of being in ill health or of suffering from infections or a contagious disease, the parent shall be notified and said student will be excused from school.

A student should not be in school and will be sent home if the following condition(s) are present:

- The student has a fever of 100 degrees F or higher. The temperature should be normal for 24 hours before returning to school.
- The student is unable to function/participate in the school activities due to observed health status.
- The student wants to sleep during the day and appears listless.
- The student has a discharge, which is other than clear from nose, mouth, eyes, ears or any other areas.
- The student is vomiting.
- The student has diarrhea.
- The student has a congestive cough, which prevents him or her from meaningful involvement in the educational process.
- The student has an open, draining sore and will not keep the bandage on.

- The student had a previously controllable medical condition and that condition has become unmanageable (e.g., asthma, seizures).
- The student exhibits unusual pallor or a flushed face.
- The student has an unknown skin rash.
- The student has a strong offensive body odor suggestive of urine/fecal soiling or hygiene concerns.

III. Universal precaution is the practice of following certain safety measures when a school employee or student may be exposed to blood or certain other body fluids. In general, students whose clothing becomes bloodied should change into clean clothing.

Exposure control is the practice of reducing the risk of infection with blood borne pathogens. If it has been determined that a student has an exposure incident, the parent will be notified. The student's physician should then evaluate the situation in terms of prophylaxis as recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

IV. The RSU 83/M.S.A.D. #13 Readmission Policy for sick children is as follows:

Every student returning to school following an absence will be required to present a note of explanation from the parent, guardian, or family physician to the teacher. Said note shall include the dates of absence and reason.

- The student should be on prescribed antibiotics for at least 24 hours prior to readmission to school.
- When it is appropriate, a student may return to school yet continue to administer that medication.

V. Parents who fail to comply with protocol will be required to meet with the school principal.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your principal or school nurse. We are asking for your cooperation in the implementation of this protocol to protect your children.

Adopted: 2/10/04