

Southwest Independent School District Parent Guidelines for When to Keep Students' Home

Please keep your child home from school if he or she has one of the following conditions or illnesses listed below. Call your child's school to let them know why your child is absent. Send the appropriate note when your child returns to school.

Chicken Pox/Varicella

Children with chicken pox may return seven days after onset of rash and once all of the sores and blisters are dried/scabbed over, or if there are no scabs, or no new sores appear.

Diarrhea

Keep your child home if he or she has diarrhea (3 or more loose stools in 24 hours), until diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of diarrhea suppressing medications;

Diarrhea from *E. Coli*, *Salmonella* or *Shigella*:

Students of any age are excluded for one of these infections. **A Doctor's Note is required.** Your child can return to school:

- *E. Coli & Shigella*: After diarrhea stops.
- *Salmonella typhi*: After 24 hours without diarrhea.
- Other types of *Salmonella*: after diarrhea stops

Fever

Keep your child home for a fever of 100 degrees F or higher by mouth, 99 degrees F or higher if taken under the arm, Your child can return to school with a **Parent Note** when fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

Fever with Rash, Behavior Change or other Symptoms:

Take your child to a doctor or clinic for any fever if he or she also has a rash, changes in behavior, earache, vomiting, confusion, sore throat or irritability. **A Doctor's Note is required to return.**

German Measles/Rubella/ 3 Day Measles

Your child must remain home for 7 days after the rash starts. **A Doctor's Note is required to return.**

Head Lice:

Parents of children with head lice will be notified of the need to treat with a shampoo approved by the FDA to kill head lice prior to returning to school.

Hepatitis A / Yellow Jaundice

Students with acute infectious hepatitis may return 1 week after the start of the jaundice. **A Doctor's Note** is required.

Impetigo

Students having sores with honey colored crusting, should be evaluated by a licensed health care provider. A diagnosis of Impetigo will require that the student remain home until 24 hours after beginning antibiotic treatment. **A Doctor's Note is required to return.**

Measles/Red Measles/ 10 Day Measles

Children with measles can **return with a Doctor's Note 4 days after the rash begins.** If they have no fever and feel well enough to participate in regular school activities.

Mumps

Children with mumps can return **with a Doctor's Note 9 days after the beginning of swelling.**

Pink eye/ Conjunctivitis

Children whose eyes are red or pink, and who have pain or eyelid redness, with white or yellow discharge or matted eyelids after sleep may have Purulent Conjunctivitis. They cannot return to school until they have been examined and treatment has begun. **A Doctor's note is required to return.**

Children with pink eyes who have a clear drainage and no fever, no eye pain, and no eyelid redness **DO NOT** need to be kept home.

Rash

Take your child to a doctor if he or she has a rapidly spreading rash or a rash with fever or behavior changes. **A Doctor's Note is required to return.**

Ringworm of the Scalp

Students must remain out of school until they have begun a treatment with **a prescription oral antifungal medication.** **A Doctor's note** is required to return.

Ringworm of the Body

Students may return with a Parent Note once they begun oral or topical antifungal treatment. The affected area must be completely covered by clothing or a bandaid.

Scabies

Children with scabies must be out of school until treatment/medication has been applied. **A Doctor's Note is required to return.**

Shingles

Keep children home who have shingles lesions/sores or blisters that cannot be covered. Children can return once the lesions are dried/scabbed. **A Parents Note is required to return.**

Staph or Strep Infections (including MRSA)

A child with **draining lesions** that cannot be covered, Or with sores that ooze through and soak dressings, Should remain home until the draining stops. Children With oozing or draining sores **may not participate** in close contact activities or sports.

Strep Throat

Your child can return with a Doctor's note 24 hours after starting antibiotics, if there is no fever.

Tuberculosis (TB)

A child with TB should be kept home **until the doctor treating the TB writes a Doctor's note that states the child is no longer contagious.**

Whooping Cough/Pertussis

Children with whooping cough can return to school **with a Doctor's note after completing 5 days of prescribed antibiotics**

Vomiting

Keep your child home if they have vomited 2 or more times in 24 hours, unless the physician feels the cause of vomiting is not an infectious disease and the child is in no danger of becoming dehydrated.