

Dr. Triana, MD, School Physician - 315-425-1431 Solvay Elementary School – 484-1416 Solvay Middle School – 484-1413 Solvay High School – 484-1402

## **Guidelines for Parents**

Many parents are confused about when to keep children who are ill at home. These guidelines will help you but are no means hard and fast rules. Please remember that your child may have lowered resistance to infection and be more likely to become worse if he/she comes to school ill. Also, your child may be contagious to others, and it is important to control the spread of infection. Although our school health offices are very well equipped, the offices do not provide full-day care during illness. **Any time you have questions, please consult your doctor's office and call the school nurse.** Below is a list of **some** of the common illnesses and symptoms:

- 1. **FEVER:** Your child should stay home if he/she has a fever of 100 degrees (orally) or more and should remain at home for about 24 hours after the fever is gone.
- 2. **VOMITING OR DIARRHEA**: Your child should stay home if he/she has vomited or has diarrhea (more than one loose stool) within 12 hours prior to the start of school. (Be alert for stress induced vomiting. Some children vomit when worried about something.)
- 3. **PINKEYE:** Conjunctivitis is very contagious. If the white of your child's eye is red and has any type of drainage, you should keep your child at home and consult your child's doctor.
- 4. **HEAD LICE:** Children with lice cannot come to school until they have been treated with a lice killing product. Please contact the school nurse if you believe you have found lice or nits on any of your children.
- 5. CHICKEN POX: Students cannot return to school until at least seven days have elapsed since the first appearance of the rash. Ideally, students should wait to return until blisters have scabbed over and are dry. This will take 7 10 days. This is especially important if the blisters are on the face, arms, lower legs, or other exposed skin. A note from the doctor is required confirming diagnosis.
- 6. **IMPETIGO:** Impetigo is a skin infection that causes a rash of infected sores. Impetigo can be found anywhere on the body including the face. It is highly contagious. The sores become crusty and drain infectious material. The infection needs to be treated by a doctor or it will worsen and spread. Once treatment has started, your child may return to school. If not dry and crusted, the sores need to be covered with clothing while your child is in school.
- 7. **STREP THROAT:** If your child has been diagnosed by a doctor as having strep throat (this required a "throat culture" test at the doctor's office), your child should stay home until 24 full hours have gone by since starting the antibiotic prescribed by the doctor. He/she must be fever-free for 24 hours also.
- 8. **COUGH:** If a cough is so frequent that it causes chest pain, the child should stay home and the doctor should be called. If the cough is constant, the child may be very contagious to others and should remain at home and the doctor called. Any cough that produces unusual discharge should be checked by the doctor and the child should stay home until the doctor allows your child to return.

Please call your child's doctor and the school nurse with any questions. If your child is ill, please have them stay home. If you are called to pick up your sick child at school, please arrive promptly. The school health offices can provide short-term care only for sick children.

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