

LAKELAND SCHOOL CORPORATION

TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL

You do not want your child to miss school but you also do not want them to endanger themselves or others by going to school sick. Here are a few guidelines to help you make the decision whether or not to send your child to school.

Runny Nose is the way many child respond to pollen, dust, chalk, or simply a change of the season. If it is not a common cold, then it is probably allergies, which are not contagious. Do not keep your child home.

Cold Symptoms or Bad Cough could be an indication of a severe cold, bronchitis, flu, or even pneumonia. Some children suffer one cold after another however; a run-of-the-mill cold should not be a reason to miss school. If your child is not acting “right”, has difficulty breathing, or becoming dehydrated, you may want to see your primary care provider.

Diarrhea and vomiting make children very uncomfortable and being near a restroom becomes a top priority. If your child had repeated episodes of diarrhea and/or vomiting, accompanied by a fever, rash or general weakness, consult with your doctor and keep your child out of school until the illness has passed. A single episode of diarrhea or vomiting unaccompanied by any other symptoms may not be reason enough to keep your child out of school. It is ***VERY IMPORTANT*** to make sure emergency contacts in Power School are up to date so that we may reach you or another responsible adult during the school day if diarrhea and/or vomiting reoccurs. In that case, your child would need to go home.

Fever is an important symptom when it occurs along with a sore throat, each ache, nausea, listlessness, or a rash. Most pediatricians advise parents to keep child home during the course of a fever and for an additional 24 hours after the fever has passed without the use of medication. A temperature greater than **100 degrees**, orally, is considered a fever.

Sore Throats are most often the cause of a virus and are part of a cold. Children who sleep with their mouths open or experience postnasal drip from draining sinuses often have a sore throat. Strep throat and scarlet fever are two contagious conditions cause by streptococcal (bacterial) infection. They usually arrive with a sore throat and high fever. 12 to 48 hours after the onset of scarlet fever, a rash may also appear. A test performed by your physician will confirm if your child has strep infection. A child with strep throat or scarlet fever should be at kept home and treated with antibiotics as prescribed by a doctor. A child is usually no longer contagious and may return to school with the permission of a doctor 24 hours after antibiotic has started.

Conjunctivitis or Pink eye: If your child’s eye is pink/red and is producing a white or yellow discharge they may require treatment with prescription eye drops. Your child should not return to school until they have been seen by a physician and it has been 24 hours after antibiotic treatment started.

Ear Infections, when not properly treated, can cause damage to the inner ear. If your child is complaining of reoccurring ear pain or you see drainage notify your physician. In most cases, a fever is present. Please keep your child home until they have received 24 hours worth of antibiotic therapy.

