

Plaquemines Parish School Board

HELPFUL GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Keeping students healthy can be a major effort for both school personnel and parents.

Here are some guidelines to consider when deciding whether your child should attend school.

1. **FEVER** is a sign of illness or infection. If your child has a temperature or **100⁰ or above**, **he/she should remain at home. Children must be free of fever for 24 hours without fever medication before returning to school.**
2. **VOMITING AND DIARRHEA** are often contagious. Your child should be watched closely for dehydration and/or bloody stools. **Children must be free of diarrhea and vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school.**
3. Children often have runny noses and coughs during the cold and allergy seasons. These should be watched carefully. **Your child should remain at home if he/she is too uncomfortable to benefit from instruction, has a frequent cough and/or thick, discolored nasal discharge.** If these symptoms persist, a doctor should be consulted.
4. **ASTHMA** is a chronic inflammatory lung disease characterized by recurrent attacks of breathing problems. Keep your children at home and seek medical advise when they have a fever, signs of infection, wheezing which continues to increase one hour after medicine is taken, they are too weak/tired to take part in routine daily activities or breathing is labored, irregular or rapid.
5. **RINGWORM** is a fungal infection of the skin and may be spread from one child to the other. The student **must** be seen by a doctor and be on medication for 24 hours before returning to school. **A note from the doctor is required before being admitted to class. ALL INFECTED AREAS MUST BE COVERED.**
6. **RASHES** vary widely, both in appearance and severity. **A doctor should be consulted if a rash accompanies an illness, if the rash covers a large portion of the body, if the rash is spreading, or if the child is too uncomfortable (itching, pain).** If it is necessary to consult a doctor, a letter is required when returning to school.
7. **SORES** may be caused by a bacterial skin infection. These often begin around the nose and mouth but may appear at the site of a minor injury and then spread to normal skin nearby. **This type infection is contagious and may cause serious problems for the infected child. A doctor's note is required when returning to school, and the student must have been on prescribed medication for 24 hours.**
8. **PINKEYE** is another common condition seen in schools. It is contagious and must be treated with a medication prescribed by a doctor. Symptoms include redness, itching, swelling, drainage and excessive matter upon awakening in the morning. (Eye lids may be "stuck" together). **Do not send student to school with these symptoms.** Student may return to school after being on medication for 24 hours and if symptoms have disappeared. A note stating the name of the medication used is required.
9. **HEAD LICE** is often a problem. Any child can get head lice, but it is treatable with time and patience. Our school system follows a "**NIT FREE**" policy. This means a child **must be clear of lice and/or eggs before returning to school.** Parents are asked to **bring student to school** where he/she can be checked in their presence, by school personnel before admitted to class.

Thank you for helping us keep your children healthy.