

# Student Illness and Return to School Policy

The intention of this policy is to provide a healthy and safe environment for our students. Some illnesses and situations require a child to be absent from school to prevent the spread of infection to other children and to allow the child time to rest, recover and be treated for the illness. In order to help keep our children healthy, St Bernadette School requires adherence to the guidelines of this policy.

Children will not be allowed to attend school or school related activities if they have anything contagious such as, but not limited to the following:

- FEVER: May return when fever free (under 100 degrees) without the use of fever reducing medication for **24 hours**.
- DIARRHEA / VOMITING: May return when symptom free for 24 hours
- STREP THROAT: May return after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment and no fever for 24 hours **without medication**
- CONJUNCTIVITIS (pink eye): May return 24 hours after treatment begins and eyes are free of discharge
- HEAD LICE: May return after treatment and removal of all live lice and nits from hair
- RINGWORM: May return after treatment begins; area should be covered while in school for first 48 hours of treatment
- IMPETIGO / STAPH / MRSA: May return 24 hours after treatment starts; wound must be covered with dressing taped on all 4 sides
- COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (such as, but not limited to - influenza, chickenpox, measles, mumps, pertussis, meningitis, mononucleosis): May return when cleared by their medical provider.
- COVID-19 **positive**: may return to school after 5 days of isolation from the onset of symptoms or positive test result (whichever came first). Must have **SIGNIFICANT** improvement of all symptoms and continue with strict mask wearing at school for an additional 5 days.

If a student arrives at school with symptoms, or during the school day begins to show symptoms indicative of a condition listed above, a parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to pick up the child **within 30 mins.**

**The parent/guardian needs to maintain direct contact with the school and the student's teacher if the child is diagnosed with any communicable disease** so the school can take appropriate steps to protect the entire student population.

When calling the school to report an absence, **please leave a message with the reason** for the absence and along with symptoms your child is experiencing.

When your child is ready to return to school, **your child must stop by the Health Office to be cleared by the school nurse.**