



## **Return to School Protocols After an illness and/or Hospital Stay**

Please see the protocols below for returning to school after an illness and/or hospital stay.

It is always our goal to have our students in school as much as possible. However, in order to keep our school and its students and staff (especially those who may be immuno-compromised) as healthy as possible, there will be times when students will be excluded from attending school.

Please review and refer to the following New York State guidelines when your child is ill:

- General illness: In general, children should stay home if their illness prevents them from participating in school activities or poses a risk of spreading infection to others.
- Fever: If a child has a fever (defined as 100° F or higher), they should stay home until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, and their symptoms are improving.
- Vomiting or Diarrhea: Children should stay home until at least 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea. Your child may be weak or too sleepy to benefit from being at school all day after such illnesses.
- Severe Sore Throat or Scarlet Fever: A child can return to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics and once they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications.
- Red, runny eyes, especially with discharge or any crust, can indicate conjunctivitis or pink eye.
- Undiagnosed Rash: Any child who arrives at school with a rash will be sent home and required to bring a medical note stating it is not contagious.

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- Respiratory Illness (including Flu, RSV, COVID-19) and/or Persistent Cough:
  - Stay home and away from others when sick with a respiratory virus.
  - You can return to normal activities when symptoms are improving, and you've been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
  - It is recommended to wear a mask and take other precautions for the next 5 days, especially around older adults, young children, and immunocompromised individuals.

**Please note:**

- a) Parents/guardians are required to alert the school if their child has been diagnosed with a communicable, contagious illness.
- b) Students returning to school after a surgical procedure, stitches, fracture, highly contagious or extended illness must provide a doctor's note authorizing their return to school. Any physical restrictions recommended by your physician must be included in this note. Only a physician's note is acceptable in such cases.
- c) Please contact our school nurse at 631-737-1492 or email, [mitz@clearyschool.org](mailto:mitz@clearyschool.org), if you have any questions or concerns about your child's health, as it relates to school attendance.
- d) Remember, whenever you keep your child home from school, whether it is from illness or for a scheduled doctor's appointment, please call the front desk at 631-588-0530. An absent note should be sent in with your child upon their return to school. Please indicate if your child is on any medication to treat illness, as some medication can affect a child's behavior and/or their stomach.

Thank you for your cooperation.