

When to Keep Your Child Home From School

As the current standards of practice are evolving for the care of students, the Health Team is taking steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is the goal of Austin ISD & Ascension Seton Student Health Services to provide prevention strategies that will allow our schools to resume the important work of educating our young people. We want everyone to have confidence we are doing everything we can to provide a safe and healthy learning environment. We will update these guidelines as new information and data about COVID-19 becomes available.

In order to control communicable diseases in school, your child is expected to stay home or will be sent home for the following reasons:

COVID-19: A member of the household is either waiting for COVID-19 testing results or has tested positive for COVID-19. Contact your school health office for guidance.

Fever: A temperature at or above 99.6° F. Use a thermometer to check the temperature; feeling the forehead is not accurate.

During COVID Pandemic, student may return to school only when:

- Fever-free for 24hours, **without** the use of fever-reducing medications such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin).
- Improvement in symptoms, if present; **and**,
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms, other than fever, first appeared.

***Diarrhea or loose bowel movements:** 2 episodes in a 24 hour period (even if there are no other signs of illness). Diarrhea must be resolved for a 24 hour period **without** use of anti-diarrheal medication before the student can return to school.

***Vomiting (unrelated to anxiety or motion sickness):** Any vomiting within the last 24 hours.

Rash: New, undiagnosed, rash or skin condition - at the nurse's discretion - until verified by the healthcare provider that it is not contagious.

Cough: New cough **and** any of the above symptoms and/or unable to sleep. May return with clearance from a healthcare provider.

Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye), bacterial or viral: Pink/reddish color to white part of the eye **and** thick, yellow or greenish, crusty discharge. May return with clearance from a healthcare provider or when the student is symptom free.

- **During COVID-19 Pandemic, student may return to school only when:** eye redness with any other symptoms above needs clearance by a healthcare provider.

Taste/Smell: A sudden loss of taste or smell needs clearance by a healthcare provider.

Ringworm: Treatment must be started and area must be covered until symptoms have resolved.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases: (chicken pox, hepatitis A, measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis [whooping cough]): Student must have clearance from a healthcare provider.

**students with medical conditions must have a note from their provider on file with the school nurse.*