

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL

It is the goal of the Oakland Christian School to provide a safe and healthy environment for students and staff. To help reduce the risk and spread of illness, we ask parents to please keep their child home from school if they are ill. The following is a list of symptoms of communicable disease. If your child exhibits any of these symptoms or illness prevents them from comfortably participating in school activities, please keep your child home. Criteria includes:

Severely ill: A child who is lethargic or less responsive, has difficulty breathing or has a rapidly spreading rash.

Fever: A temperature of 100.4 degrees F or greater may be accompanied by behavioral changes or other signs or symptoms (sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea). The child must *not* return to school until they have been **fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications**. (e.g., Tylenol, Motrin, Advil) NOTE: If there is influenza-like activity or COVID-19-like-activity in the school or community, justifies the fever criteria at 100.4 F and respiratory symptoms (e.g., sore throat, cough)

Diarrhea: A child who has two (2) loose or watery stools in a 24-hour period. The child should have no loose or watery stools for 24 hours prior to returning to school. Exception: Healthcare provider has determined the cause is not infectious (doctor's note may be required).

Vomiting: A child who has vomited two (2) times in a 24-hour period. The student should have no vomiting episodes for 24 hours prior to returning to school. Exception: Healthcare provider has determined the cause is not infectious (doctor's note may be required).

Abdominal pain: A child with abdominal pain that continues for more than 2 hours or has intermittent pain associated with fever or other symptoms should not come to school.

Rash: The child with a rash AND has a fever OR a change in behavior. Exclude until the rash subsides or until a healthcare provider has determined it is not infectious (doctor's note may be required). Note: Rapidly spreading bruising or small blood spots under the skin need immediate medical attention.

Skin sores: A child with weeping sores on an exposed area that cannot be covered with waterproof bandage or dressing.

Certain communicable diseases: If a staff member or student is diagnosed with certain communicable disease, such as Covid-19, they may be excluded from active participation at school or work for a certain period of time, following Oakland County health department guidelines.

OCS follows these protocols for students who are sick at school:

- If your child comes to school sick or becomes ill during the school day, your child will be sent to the clinic or main office for isolation, and if appropriate, may be offered a face mask to wear, and the staff will call you to pick up your child immediately.
- Your child should leave school immediately to protect others from illness.
- If we are not able to speak with you, the designated emergency contact person will be called to pick up your child.
- In an extreme emergency, 9-1-1 will be called and first responders will provide hospital transportation if necessary.

Nuisance Conditions:

Lice: Head lice is not a communicable disease but is often thought of one by the general public. OCS follows the Michigan Department of Education and Michigan Department of Community Health publication, Manual of Head Lice: A Comprehensive Guide to Identify, Treat, Manage, and Prevent Head Lice. Protocol includes An individual will be excluded at the end of the day for live lice and will be able to return after proper treatment and inspection. The presence of nits in the hair does not require school exclusion.

Sources: Michigan Department of Education and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services publication *Managing Communicable Disease in Schools*, (2023).

Michigan Department of Education and Michigan Department of Community Health publication, Manual of Head Lice, (2013)