

**MCLOUTH USD 342 SCHOOL**  
**Health Services**

## **Is my child too ill to attend school?**

Parents are often confronted with this decision when their child complains of not feeling well. The guidelines shown on this handout may be helpful. It will not cover every medical condition and does not take the place of seeking medical attention. Please consult your doctor for specific medical advice.

**Fever – 99.7 degrees or higher** - A fever is a sign of illness. A child with a temperature of 99.7 degrees or higher should not attend school. The child should be free of fever (without the aid of Tylenol or Motrin) for 24 hours before returning to school.

**Sore Throat/Colds/Cough** - Minor cold symptoms are common and usually don't interfere with school attendance. A persistent, frequent cough and/or constant nasal drainage may affect your child's performance at school, and he/she may be more comfortable at home. If the sore throat/cold/cough is accompanied by a temperature of 99.7 degrees or higher the child should not come to school. Strep throat must be treated with antibiotics for 24 hours and be fever free before returning.

**Rash** - A rash may cover the entire body or only one area. A child that has a rash that is draining, has open areas or is causing the child to itch excessively should not attend school. A rash accompanied with other symptoms such as: a fever, sore throat, irritability, vomiting, etc. should not attend school. A child complaining of a rash may be sent home at the school's discretion for evaluation of contagiousness unless a note has accompanied the child to school from a physician.

**Lice**- Lice discovered at home needs to be treated with an approved lice treatment. Complete removal of nits is not necessary as long as the student has been treated.

**Vomiting/Diarrhea** - A child who has vomited should wait 24 hours after last episode and be able to retain solid foods (2 meals) before returning to school. A child who is having frequent diarrhea stools should not attend school. If there is cramping/abdominal pain with diarrhea, the student may be more comfortable at home. Diarrhea is contagious until stools are formed. Stay home for 24 hours after last episode, stools have returned to normal and fever is gone.

**Eyes** – A child who wakes up with their eyes "glued" together may have "pink eye" or conjunctivitis. Other symptoms are redness (or pink) of the eye, gritty feeling in the eyes, itching and discharge of the eye. We are unable to determine here at school whether it is viral or bacterial pinkeye or even if it is contagious or non-contagious. This must be done by a doctor. Please keep in mind that "pink eye" is highly contagious and we need to work together to prevent an entire classroom from exposure. Your child needs to stay home on medication for 24 hours before returning to school.