

Provo City School District
Policy Series 3000: Students



3413 P1

Communicable Diseases: Keeping Students Home

The following conditions of special concern for which children should be kept home and when necessary, diagnosed and treated by a licensed clinician before returning to school:

1. Colds/Flu - Watery discharge from nose and eyes, sneezing, chills, general body discomfort, or if there is a fever or yellow or green drainage from eyes or nose;
2. Diarrheal Diseases - An increasing number of stools compared with the child's normal pattern with increased water and/or decreased form, which may be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramping, headache, and/or fever. If any kind of stool softeners (fleets, enema, laxative, etc.) are administered, student must remain home for at least 12 hours;
3. Fifth Disease or Erythema Infectiosum - A viral rash that is common among children. Symptoms include a red "slapped-face" rash on the face, a flat or raised red rash on the arms or legs often accompanied with a low-grade fever. If a pregnant woman who is at risk becomes infected, there is a small chance (less than 10 percent) that a miscarriage may occur. During an outbreak of Fifth Disease a pregnant woman working around infected people should consult her physician within two weeks of exposure regarding potential risk;
4. Impetigo - Blister-like skin lesions or oozing or crusted sores must be diagnosed and treated with antibiotics for at least 24 hours before the child may return to school;
5. Pink-Eye or Conjunctivitis - Redness of eye(s), watery, white or yellow discharge from the eye(s), matted eyelashes, burning or itching eyes must be treated with antibiotic for at least 24 hours before the child may return to school. If antibiotics are not prescribed, a doctor's release is required prior to the student returning to school;
6. Any open wound or sore;
7. Persistent cough;
8. Nausea and/or vomiting;
9. Strep throat or other bacterial infection must be treated with an antibiotic for at least 24 hours before the child may return to school;

10. Fever of 100.4 degrees or above;
11. Presence of any skin rashes that might be due to an infection (i.e. measles, strep, staph, fungus, chicken pox);
12. Foul smelling urine, or blood in urine;
13. Earache or ear drainage; or
14. Pediculosis (Head Lice) - If a student is suspected of having head lice at school, a designated school employee shall discreetly check for live lice or nits (eggs). Care should be taken to protect the privacy of the student and family. In the case where the student is found to be infected, parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child will be immediately notified and provided information about "Evidence-based Treatment Options" and steps to follow. At the parent's/guardian's discretion, the child may be either checked-out or sent home at the end of the day. To the extent possible, head lice should not contribute to student absenteeism; therefore, removal of the child from school is usually unnecessary. If the infected student remains at school, the child should be restricted from activities involving head-to head contact or sharing of personal items with other children until treated. If additional cases of head lice occur with other students in the same classroom, the principal may choose to send home the "Head Lice Information" letter to the parent/guardians of children in that class. Due to privacy concerns and the potential psychological impact, classroom-wide or grade level student head checks are strongly discouraged unless unusual circumstances warrant it.

Contents will change periodically per health department guidelines.

Individuals in charge of schools shall work with the Utah County Health Department regarding any individual suffering from or suspected of having a disease that is communicable. When deemed appropriate, the school district reserves the right to request a doctor's release prior to a student returning to school.

For additional guidelines regarding public health and contact information for the Utah County Health Department: www.utahcountyonline.org/Dept2/Health/

Legal References

State Code 26-6-6

Utah County Health Department

Synopsis

Duty to report individual suspected of having communicable disease.

Policy for Dealing with Communicable Disease in the School/Day Care Setting

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