

## **Wausau School District**

### **Communicable Disease Protocol for Exclusion from School**

When a student with symptoms of a communicable disease reports to the health area, the principal, school nurse, or staff designated by principal or school nurse may exclude the student until they no longer are infectious or pose a risk to others, or per physician's written instructions. When exclusion is necessary:

- Contact parent/guardian and explain reason for exclusion
- Refer to physician for diagnosis and treatment when appropriate
- Provide information on the disease to student/class/parent/guardian when appropriate
- Consult with school nurse regarding questions on communicable disease

Students may be excluded from school for communicable disease control for the following conditions:

- Undiagnosed or untreated skin rash or sores that cannot be covered
- Fever (temperature 100.5°F or greater or if behaviors such as excessive sleepiness or coughing which might be interfering with the student's learning.) Child must be fever-free without fever medicine for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Vomiting more than once in the previous 24 hours. Child must not have vomited in the past 24 hours before returning to school.
- Diarrhea three times in the previous 24 hours or child is incontinent (has an "accident").
- Upper respiratory illness with frequent cough/drainage
- "Pinkeye" (conjunctivitis) if accompanied by fever, behavioral change or inability to avoid touching eyes. (Antibiotics not required for return.)
- Strep throat (until 24 hours after treatment has begun, or health practitioner approval)
- Students whose immunization status is not in compliance with the Wisconsin immunization law
- Students with known suppressed immunity may be excluded, for their protection, when cases of communicable disease (i.e., measles, chickenpox) occur in school

A student may not be excluded from school when the risk of transmission of a communicable disease is remote in the school setting. For example, because transmission primarily occurs through sexual contact or from sharing infected needles, students with sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection or chronic hepatitis B would not be excluded unless they had a secondary infection or other communicable disease that posed a threat to others.

A student may not be excluded from school when transmission of a communicable disease can be controlled through education, provision of supplies for good hygiene, and by practicing universal precautions.

#### References:

School Nursing: A Comprehensive Text, 2nd Edition 2012

Wisconsin Communicable Disease Chart, August 2014

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p4/p44397.pdf>