

## TRENTON SCHOOL ILLNESS POLICY

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It's hard sometimes to decide to send your child to school when they don't feel well. As parents, you have to consider work schedules, childcare arrangements, transportation and other family matters. You want what is best for your child's health as does the school your child attends.. It is not easy to achieve a balance between the importance of being at school and making a good decision that your child is ill. That's especially hard when you have those great "high-achievers" who don't want to miss a day and lose that perfect attendance record. But balance is what is best for your child and school.

**Children who have the following symptoms should stay home and not come to school until these symptoms have been gone for at least 24 hours WITHOUT help of medication, or until your doctor sends a note that states the condition is not contagious and OK for your child to come back to school.**

**FEVER**- check your child's temperature with a thermometer, **and if a fever over 100.0 degrees is present, PLEASE DO NOT send him or her to school, even if for just a little while in the morning so that they can have "perfect attendance."** It doesn't help your child's health to give fever-reducing medications and send them on to school. The medication only **reduces the fever for a short time and doesn't take care of the illness that has caused the fever.** Coming to school sick and possibly contagious not only exposes other children to the illness, but also increases your child's healing time. Once the medication wears off and the fever returns, your child must be picked up anyway and valuable healing time is lost. **Children must be fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication, before returning to school.**

**VOMITING/DIARRHEA**- students with diarrheal illnesses must stay home until they are diarrhea free without diarrhea-suppressing medications for at least 24 hours. Consider how uncomfortable these two things are, even to an adult who has better control, and how distressed and embarrassed your child will be at school having to go to the restroom often, or feeling sick while sitting at his/her desk. If the vomiting or diarrhea happens more than once that day, or if they are associated with fever, you must keep your child home. Even if these things happen only one time before school starts and the child feels better immediately afterwards, it is still wise to watch for a few hours to see if it happens again before sending him or her on to class. If your child is spending all his or her time at school feeling sick, then not much learning is taking place!

**SKIN RASHES**- if the rash has any fluid or pus coming from it, the child must remain home until the rash has been treated and a note from the doctor states it is OK to return to school **or** until the rash is gone, dried, or scabbed over with no new spots appearing. **Anytime a rash is associated with a fever, the child may not come to school until the fever has been gone for 24 hours without medication.**

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**RED EYES, ESPECIALLY IF THERE IS ALSO DRAINAGE OR CRUSTING AROUND THE EYE-** this can often mean your child has **conjunctivitis**, also known as **pink eyes**. Not all pink-eye is contagious. Sometimes it is just allergies or other irritations that are causing the red color, but until we know for sure (which means we must have a note from the doctor stating the condition is not contagious, or until the redness and drainage are completely gone), your child must remain out of school.

**PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE) OR SCABES** – these small insects cause skin conditions that are uncomfortable and itchy, and could become infected. Parents must treat hair with **APPROVED HEAD LICE PRODUCT**. **Do not treat with bug spray, gasoline, or dog shampoo.** These products can be harmful or even fatal to a child. Hair should be treated exactly as the instructions on the bottle indicate. Do not use conditioner before applying head lice products. It is less effective. Most head lice products are applied to **DRY** hair.

Make sure to use a Nit Comb not a regular comb for removal of nits. Head lice eggs called nits stay on the hair after treatment and may not be dead. The best way to eliminate future problems is to remove every egg from the hair. If you don't get rid of the nits the problem will just start over again.

Clean everything that touches the child's head/hair, such as car upholstery, backpacks, chairs, couch, bedding, pillows, mattress, stuffed animals, dolls, hair accessories, combs, brushes. After treating hair always remove the clothing the child had on and wash and dry it. Head lice do not drown, the best way to make sure they are eliminated on clothing and such, is **HIGH HEAT** in the dryer for at least 20-30 minutes. Anything not washable, seal in plastic bags for 2 weeks. Vacuum all upholstery, carpeting, and mattresses. Dispose of vacuum bag outside of the home. Remember to wash/dry all recently worn hats, caps, coats and sweaters. Soak hairbrush/combs in hot water and head lice products for the recommended time.

You may seal hair accessories in a plastic bag for 2 weeks. Pillows should be tossed in a dryer on high heat for 20-30 minutes if they cannot be washed. Head lice cannot live off of the human head for more than 2 days.

Retreatment will probably be necessary in 7-10 days. There are products on the market without pesticides.

Your child may be required to go home if live lice are found. If only nits, a note will be sent home and we will require a note of proof that the child has been treated before allowing them to return to school.

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