

Provo City School District
Policy Series 3000: Students

3150 P3

Student Attendance: Guidelines for Keeping Students at Home Due to an Illness

To provide further clarification on Policy 3150 Student Attendance, the following guidelines have been developed to assist parents as to whether or not to keep a child home due to symptoms of illness. District nurses have developed the guidelines to assist in such decisions.

**1. If any of the following conditions are present, the student should be kept at home.
Parents/guardian must notify the school to excuse the absences listed below.**

Fever is the body's way of destroying the germs making it sick, and it's a common symptom of infections such as flu. Keep your children home if their temperature is 101° F or higher. Wait until children are fever-free before letting them return to school.

Diarrhea is often the result of infection, food poisoning, or a side effect to medications like antibiotics. Keep children home until stools are formed and your doctor gives the okay. Make sure your sick child stays well hydrated.

Vomiting is another way for the body to rid itself of the germs making it sick, and is usually caused by a stomach virus or stomach infection. Keep children home if they've vomited twice or more in the last 24 hours. They can return to school after symptoms clear up or your doctor says they're no longer contagious.

Severe cough and cold symptoms should keep kids home from school. A serious cough could be a sign of contagious conditions like whooping cough, viral bronchitis, or croup. It can also be a sign of asthma or allergies.

Sore throats can be a symptom of strep or a common cold. If your child has been diagnosed with strep throat, keep your child at home for at least 24 hours after starting antibiotics. If your child has a mild cold, it's okay to go to school.

Pinkeye (conjunctivitis) is contagious, and children should stay home from school for the first 24 hours after treatment begins. Symptoms of pinkeye include eye redness, irritation, swelling, and pus.

Headaches can be a symptom of contagious conditions like viral gastroenteritis, flu, meningitis, and strep throat. Opinions differ on whether a child should be kept home. If your child doesn't have any other signs of illness, and feels okay, your child can go to school.

Rashes can be the sign of contagious conditions such as chickenpox, bacterial meningitis, or impetigo. Children should be kept home until they're diagnosed. They can return to

school after symptoms are gone and their doctor gives the okay.

2. Even if the following conditions are present, the student usually does not need to be kept at home.

Earaches aren't contagious. There's no need to keep a child with a mild earache home, as long as your child feels well enough to concentrate.

Mild cold or respiratory symptoms are no reason to keep children at home so long as their nasal drainage is clear and their cough is mild.

Adopted: August 13, 2013