

When Students Are Sick

Illness (Management of Illness)

The Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa Department of Education has provided the following guidelines for schools throughout the state. Indianola Community School District nurses will recognize and follow these guidelines for the safety and protection of all students throughout the district.

Student temporary exclusion from school for illness - basic criteria

While most illnesses do not require exclusion, there are times when the student should be sent home.

- If the illness prevents the student from participating comfortably in activities.
- If the illness results in needed care greater than school personnel can provide considering the health and safety of other students.
- Poses a risk of spread of harmful diseases to others.
- The student appears severely ill—Could include lethargy, lack of responsiveness, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, or quickly spreading rash.
- Fever 100.4 and behavior change or other signs and symptoms such as a sore throat, rash, vomiting, or diarrhea. Note: Fever as a single symptom is not a valid reason for exclusion. General exclusion guideline for a fever associated with contagious disease is 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, and without the aid of a fever reducing medication.
- Diarrhea that is not associated with changes in diet. General exclusion guideline is 24 hours from the last episode of diarrhea.
- Vomiting, unless the vomiting is determined to be caused by a non-infectious condition. General exclusion guideline is 24 hours from the last episode of vomiting.
- Rash with fever or behavioral changes, until the primary care provider or local health department authority states that the child is noninfectious.
- Scabies until after treatment has been given.
- Abdominal pain that continues for more than two hours or intermittent pain associated with fever or other signs or symptoms of illness.

Appropriate forms of notification to determine that your child is considered noninfectious include:

- Written note from the medical provider (doctor, nurse practitioner or physician assistant)
- Written note from the local health department (Warren County Public Health)