



## MSD of Shakamak

### Letter from the Nurse's Office

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Parents/Guardians:

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, there have been many changes in our procedures for getting students back to school following illness. I have done my best to keep you informed and updated, but the guidelines provided to school nurses are continuously changing, sometimes even daily. With that being said, I wanted to highlight important information regarding illness, COVID-19, and school attendance.

**Fever (school threshold is 100.0), Chills, Sore Throat, Cough, Diarrhea, Vomiting, Nausea, Headache, New Loss of Taste or Smell, Muscle or Body Aches or Fatigue, Congestion or Runny Nose, Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing**

-All symptoms **will** be treated as presumptive COVID-19

-Students will be required to remain home for 10 days from when symptoms began. After 10 days, students must be fever-free for 24 hours without Tylenol or Ibuprofen, and with improvement of symptoms before returning to school.

-If a student is evaluated by a medical provider and it is determined the student is experiencing an alternate diagnosis (it is at the discretion of the provider whether to test/not test for COVID), said student may return to school sooner provided the following is furnished to the nurse:

-A note from a medical provider that specifies the diagnosis is not COVID-related and includes a specific return to school date. If the note does not include **both** specifics, the student will be required to complete 10 days at home.

**Positive COVID Testing**

-Positive COVID students will be contacted by the county health nurse from which the student resides and further instruction given. Please note instruction by the county health nurse supersedes any information in this letter or on the school website.

-As a general rule, students must isolate for at least 10 days from when symptoms began. To return to school, students must be cleared by a medical provider and be 24 hours fever-free with symptom improvement.

-If a student is asymptomatic (no symptoms), the student must isolate at home for 10 days from the day the test was taken.

**COVID Testing without Symptoms or Exposure**

-Students who have no symptoms and no exposure to a COVID positive individual but have been tested out of caution, may return to school once negative test results are obtained.

**Close Contact**

-If a student is deemed a "close contact" (being within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer, of a positive COVID individual) by the school nurse and/or the county health department, students **must** quarantine for 14 days regardless of negative COVID test results.

### Asthma

- Nebulizer treatment during the school day is contraindicated during the COVID-19 crisis. Parents of students with asthma are encouraged to provide an inhaler with a spacer.
- If a student with asthma requires nebulizer treatments, the student is deemed too sick for school and must stay home for the duration of treatment.

### Rash/Chickenpox

- Any student with an undiagnosed rash, must stay home from school until a doctor diagnoses it as not contagious, or it goes away completely.
- In the case of chickenpox, a student may return to school after the last poxes have completely scabbed over.
- A student with ringworm or scabies may return **24 hours after** treatment has begun.

### Pink Eye

- Any student with pink eye may return to school after they have been on antibiotic treatment **for at least 24 hours**, if there is no pus-like drainage from the eye.

### Head Lice

- Whenever a student is found to have head lice, he/she must be sent home for treatment. Parents are to treat the student and work to remove all nits.
- After a student has been treated, he/she may return to school, but the nurse must first check to verify that no live lice are present.
- Lice shampoo and combs are available for students, free of charge, in the nurse's office. Please contact the nurse if you need supplies.
- It is recommended to check your student's hair for head lice **once weekly** throughout the school year. Whole classroom checks are no longer recommended. Please discourage your student from sharing hats, coats, etc. It may be of added benefit for girls to wear their hair tied up throughout the school day.

Hand sanitizer stations are located outside of all restrooms and cafeteria entrances. Please encourage your student to utilize the hand sanitizer stations frequently. Parents and guardians are reminded to frequently check the school website for the latest COVID-19 resources and information including the tool, COVID-19 Screening for Parents. It is important for parents and guardians to screen students **daily** using the screening tool.

If you have any questions regarding COVID or any of the above, please feel free to contact me during school hours or by email. I am checking my voicemail and email regularly and frequently. I know this is a lot of information and can be quite confusing. Thank you so much for your help in keeping our students healthy!

Warmest Regards,

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