

Kristen E. Beers, MSN, RN, CSN  
412-244-4212  
Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf  
Mary Butler, BSN, RN, CSN  
570-585-7031  
Scranton School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children  
Health Center Policy and Procedures

## Programs of WPSD Illness Policy (Rev. 3/2/2022)

In order to keep the students and staff at WPSD/SSDHHC healthy, we ask for your partnership to screen your student for symptoms daily before school and *utilize the symptom checklist to determine if you should keep your student home from school*. To maintain a safe mask-optional environment successfully we require your diligent adherence to this policy.

*Please note that if community transmission rates increase, as a school, we may decide to resume masking requirements until numbers return to a safe, decreased level.*

If your student becomes ill while at school, a parent/guardian will be contacted to pick your student up. Please ensure that you have arrangements in place to transport your student home in the event that your student becomes ill while at school. If you are unavailable or unable to be reached, please designate another responsible adult whom the school can contact.

**NOTE:** *Students who become ill while at school cannot be transported home on the bus/district transportation.*

If your student is experiencing any of the following symptoms, please keep your student home and follow the procedure for reporting absences. If your student develops these symptoms while at school, your student will be sent home:

- Any communicable disease (e.g., chickenpox, flu, measles, mumps, rubella, strep throat, COVID)
- Fever (>100 F)
- Persistent or uncontrolled coughing, shortness of breath
- Vomiting within 24 hours prior to school
- Diarrhea (more than one loose/liquid stool) within 24 hours prior to school
- Strep throat - must be seen by a healthcare professional. Remain home for 24 hours after starting antibiotics and be fever free for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications.
- Inflammation and/or discharge of the eye(s).
  - Pink eye is highly contagious and is a common school problem.
  - Clearance from a healthcare professional will be required for your student to return to school.

If your student is experiencing any of the following symptoms, please keep your student home until your student starts to improve. If your student presents with these symptoms at school, the Health Center will determine if your student can remain in school or needs to be sent home for evaluation and recovery.

- Upper/lower respiratory infection
- Cold symptoms (runny nose, sneezing, congestion, sore throat)
- Chills, rigors (uncontrollable shaking)
- Fatigue (not related to lack of sleep)
- Headache
- Pain (e.g., stomachache, earache, or sore throat) - keep your student at home until the pain subsides.
- Suspicious rash - keep your student at home until the rash has resolved or is evaluated and cleared by a healthcare provider.

Certain health concerns may require a medical release to return to school. Please contact the nursing staff at WPSD/SSDHHC with any questions or concerns.

### **WPSD/SSDHHC Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines**

**PLEASE communicate illnesses with the school nurses to verify dates of quarantine, and ensure all criteria have been met to return to school.**

- COVID positive individuals (regardless of vaccination status):
  - Must isolate at home for five days from symptom onset or positive test, if not showing symptoms.
  - If fever free and symptoms have improved, individuals may return to the school setting on day six, but must wear a well-fitting mask at all times through day ten.
- Individuals Exposed to a COVID positive individual (regardless of vaccination status)
  - If symptom free, may continue to attend school and participate in activities, however a well-fitting mask must be worn for ten days post exposure.
  - If there is a COVID positive individual in the students' home, this may require masking and symptom monitoring for 20 days.
    - This can be reduced to ten days IF masking and distance from COVID positive individuals can occur.
  - Dorm students with roommates may be required to quarantine at home.
- Students with symptoms of illness (see above lists for examples):
  - Will be sent home with further instructions.
    - Students must meet one of the following criteria outlined in the next section to return.
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**\*If your student is being tested for COVID, please DO NOT send your student to school until test results are received. Please contact the Health Center with test results and further instructions.**

**\* If a student is UNABLE to wear a well-fitting mask at school, the student must complete isolation/quarantine at home.**

### **Return to School Requirements**

A student who is ill with symptoms previously mentioned must meet one of the following criteria before returning to school:

- Medically cleared by a physician (with a written return to school note) to return to school before the fifth day of symptom onset. The student may then return, adhering to the WPSD/SSDHHC Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines.
  - Note must be received by the Health Center PRIOR to your student returning to the building.
    - WPSD Fax: 412-244-4291
    - SSDHHC Fax: 570-587-7900
- Evidence/verification of negative test after symptom onset. The student may then return, adhering to the WPSD/SSDHHC Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines.
  - A negative test can be verified in two ways:
    - Results from an official laboratory
    - A video demonstrating the complete and proper procedure for testing of the individual.
      - Must be a continuous video clearly identifying the student, testing procedure, and results. (must be entire 15 minutes to verify negative)
      - Current date must be displayed with the student during testing.
      - WPSD Health Center Cell Phone: 412-513-6598
      - SSDHHC Health Center Cell Phone: 570-540-5343
- Isolate at home for five days from symptom onset. The student may then return, adhering to the WPSD/SSDHHC Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines.

**NOTE:** Please note that these policies may change as information from the local health department is received.

**ASTHMA MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOL:**

- It is important that you talk to your healthcare provider to discuss what treatments are appropriate for your student's asthma management.
- Use of nebulizer treatments are currently not recommended in the school setting due to the possibility of aerosolizing viruses.
  - Albuterol nebulizer treatments will remain available as part of treatment for emergency situations.
- Please talk to your healthcare provider about providing the following for asthma management during school hours:
  - Metered dose inhaler with spacer should be considered as the preferred medication delivery device.
  - Please provide your student's supplies - inhaler and spacer, along with a physician's signed medication order and physician's signed Asthma Action Plan, to the school Health Center.