

## ILLNESS POLICY

Your child should be kept home from school if he/she:

1. has a temperature over 100 degrees Fahrenheit,
2. is vomiting,
3. has a severe cough, cold or sore throat or
4. has a skin rash of questionable nature.

**If your child has any of these symptoms, they will be sent home.** Keeping your child home when they are ill prevents the spread of germs to other students. Any child with a fever should be kept home 24 hours after their temperature drops to normal (98.6) without the use of fever-reducing medication such as Tylenol or Motrin.

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### Communicable Diseases

Students with the following communicable diseases will be excluded from school using these guidelines.

1. **Chicken Pox:** Students may return six days after onset of rash or until lesions are fully encrusted, whichever comes first.
2. **Influenza (Flu):** Most current State regulations will be followed.
3. **Pink Eye:** If a student has Pink Eye (bacterial conjunctivitis) there is reddening of the eye and large amounts of drainage that cause the eye to crust over. These students should remain out of school until having had 24 hours of antibiotic eye drops.
4. **Ringworm:** This is a fungus infection and can affect the scalp, body, feet and nails. The student may return to school after treatment has started, but should not participate in athletic activities involving skin-to-skin contact until the skin lesions are completely healed.
5. **Scabies:** Scabies is caused by a mite that burrows under the skin causing a rash and itching. The student may return after treatment has started. Treatment of child should include treatment of clothing and bedding.
6. **Impetigo:** This is a skin infection caused by the staphylococcal bacteria, the same one that causes boils, carbuncles, abscesses, and infected cuts. The student may return to school if receiving treatment. Open wounds should be covered with a clean dressing.
7. **MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus):** In the community, most MRSA infections are skin infections that are caused by staphylococcal bacteria that are resistant to certain antibiotics. It appears as pustules or boils which often are red, swollen, and painful or have pus or other drainage. The student may return to school if receiving treatment but the site needs to be covered by a dressing.

Questions about other communicable diseases should be directed to your child's school nurse.

**Head Lice:** The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) advocates that children should not be excluded from school for lice or nits. If a child has been found to have live head lice, a parent will be notified and asked to initiate treatment. The student may return after appropriate treatment has begun.

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### Special dietary needs

Students who have special dietary needs cannot be accommodated until the parent/guardian obtains a medical statement from a recognized medical authority/physician providing a list of foods the student must omit from the diet and a list of approved substitutions.

## **MEDICATION POLICY**

When a student requires medication(s), the school works cooperatively with the parents and physician to ensure that the student receives the correct medication and amount at the proper time. Only FDA approved prescription and over the counter medications are allowed to be administered by school personnel. Over the counter medication will be given per package label dosing instructions unless prescribed by physician. **Medications for students should be given at home whenever possible.** Even medications requiring doses three times a day can generally be administered while the student is at home (prior to school, after school and at bedtime). In the event that a medication needs to be given to the student while at school, the school nurse will require the following in order to do so:

### **Prescription Medications:**

1. Needs to be brought to school by the parent in the currently labeled prescription bottle with the following information: the child's name, the name of the medication, the amount of medication to be given, and the time that it should be given. Note: Most pharmacies will provide you with an additional prescription bottle for the medicine that needs to be given at school.
2. Needs to be accompanied by a Medication Form (can be obtained from the school nurse and/or office personnel or online at [www.usd368.org](http://www.usd368.org) under the district tab/district health services tab) that has been completed by the Prescribing Health Care Provider and the parent/guardian. The Prescribing Health Care Provider's orders may also be faxed to the school nurse.
3. A Primary Health Care Providers' order for medications(s) needs to be reviewed and updated at the beginning of each school year and all changes in amount of medicine to be given will require a new written order from the Prescribing Health Care Provider. Again, the medication order may be faxed directly to the school nurse.

### **Non-Prescription (Over the Counter) Medications:**

1. Must be brought to school in the original labeled container, clearly showing the amount to be given by age, the ingredients and the expiration date.
2. Must be accompanied by a Medication Form (can be obtained from the school nurse and/or office personnel or online at [www.usd368.org](http://www.usd368.org) under the district tab/district health services tab) with the parent/guardian's signature or a parent/guardian signed note with the child's name, the name of the medication, the amount of medication to be given and the day and time to be given.
3. High School students may carry a small bottle of their own non-prescription (over-the-counter) medications such as acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) or antacids (Tums). All medications must be in the original container and be used responsibly per label instructions. Sharing medication with other students is NOT allowed. The principal will have the final authority to revoke the student's privilege of carrying his or her own medication if necessary.

Medications will be maintained in the health room and given out by the school nurse and/or designated school staff according to stated policy. At the secondary level (Paola High School and Paola Middle School) a student may retain possession of their inhaler, Epi-Pen and insulin injection. This must be discussed with the school nurse and approved in writing by the parent/guardian and the physician prescribing the medication and documented by completion of Medication Form.