

MEDICAL EXCUSES FOR SCHOOL ABSENCE

The reasons for school absence must be made known to school officials, not only for the purpose of analyzing high absentee rates, but for a weekly tally of contagious illnesses required by the Department of Human Services.

An excuse written and signed by the parent or guardian must accompany a student returning to school following any school absence.

Doctor's Certificate for Contagious Disease

- A. The requirement that states parents must present a doctor's clearance for pupils before returning after an illness has been waived. Teachers and principals will use their own best judgment.
- B. Whenever a principal or teacher questions the advisability of a student's presence in school or readmittance to school due to illness, contagious disease, parasites, or skin lesions, the school nurse should be consulted. In most cases, students exhibiting poor hygiene should be counseled by a teacher before the nurse is called.
- C. A student shall be excluded from school if he/she is in the active phase of any of the following: chickenpox, conjunctivitis, diphtheria, German measles, gastro-enteritis, measles, infectious hepatitis, impetigo, mumps, influenza, meningitis, mononucleosis, whooping cough, and streptococcal throat. The child should be transported home as soon as possible by the parent or guardian.

Teachers should always be alert to symptoms of head scratching, unclean hair, and body rashes, particularly after a case of pediculosis or scabies has been identified. It is sometimes advisable for a teacher to check the entire class and refer any suspicious cases to the school nurse.

Guidelines from the State Department of Human Services and from the American Academy of Pediatrics will be used to determine a child's dismissal from or readmittance to school.

- D. A release from a physician will be required in those cases where the school nurse feels that a student's presence in school is or is not advisable for medical reasons, but the parent(s) disagree.
- E. When the school nurse feels that a child needs medical attention for any reason, he/she will recommend that the parent(s) take the child to a physician or clinic. The expense incurred will normally be assumed by the parent(s).

Adopted: June 18, 1986