

# JONESVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

115 East St. • Jonesville, MI 49250 • Phone 517-849-9075 • Fax 517-849-2434



*Committed To Educational Progress*

Dear Parents,

Welcome back for another exciting school year! We will again be providing basic over-the-counter medications for students to receive with parental consent. I will also be scheduling office hours in each building again this year, ask your student or check the school website for those times. For those of you new to the district please feel free to stop in and see me or give me a call to discuss what services I can provide for you and your family.

My goal as your school nurse is to keep your child in school while maintaining a healthy environment for everyone. With that in mind, attached are guidelines for determining when your child is too ill to attend school. These are MI Department of Community Health guidelines and are designed to make sure your child does not unnecessarily get exposed to illness. We need everyone to follow these guidelines to maintain a healthy school environment. You can put this on your refrigerator or some other convenient spot to refer to throughout the school year. If your child is ill, please notify the school to assist us with our reports for the Health Department (we report numbers only with the exception of vaccine preventable illnesses). It will be very helpful to me if you could be as specific as possible when calling in to excuse your child rather than just saying they are ill. As always, if you are unsure please give me a call and we can discuss your individual situation. If we **ALL** follow these simple guidelines it should help many of our children avoid illnesses that can be shared at school.

You will also find attached a Consent for Treatment and Medication Administration. This consent will allow me to provide first aid to your child and eliminate those calls home for medication for headaches, upset stomachs, etc. when your child is not too ill to stay in school. Medication administration is done following American Academy of Pediatrics/Michigan Association of School Nurses/Michigan Department of Education guidelines and is reviewed by a physician. All dosages will be within the age and weight recommendations for your child. Depending on the situation I will personally call you to discuss any health concerns I might have about your child. I realize that a lot of you are working parents and will only call you if I feel it is absolutely necessary. Any child with a temperature over 100.5 F will need to be sent home.

If your child should need to take prescription medication(s) (i.e., antibiotics, inhalers, ADD/ADHD medications) during school hours school staff can administer them for you. There is a form that needs to be completed before they can be administered, and they must be brought to the school in their **original/current** prescription container with the child's name and the medication order (including name of drug, dosage, route of administration and time interval) clearly written on the bottle. Most pharmacies will provide a bottle for home and school. If it is not a prescription drug (cough/cold medicine) it needs to be in the **original** container and appropriate for children (i.e. not aspirin) and accompanied by a note indicating how much and when you would like it administered.

Please feel free to contact me at the school with any questions or concerns. My direct line is 517-826-7114 or via e-mail at [tvarney@jonesvilleschools.org](mailto:tvarney@jonesvilleschools.org). I am always open to suggestions.

Don't forget to check out our school website at [www.jonesvilleschools.org](http://www.jonesvilleschools.org). Visit the Nurse's Corner for important health information.

I look forward to caring for your child and having a great school year!

Tina Varney, RN  
School Nurse/District Health Coordinator

# When Should a Child be Kept Home or Sent Home from School for Illness?

Parents often ask when a child should be kept at home or sent home from school for illness. Here are SIX reasons a child should stay home or be picked up from school as soon as possible.

**1. Fever:** If a child has a temperature of 100.5 degrees F or above (taken by mouth); 101 degrees or above (taken by ear); 99 degrees F or above (taken under the arm).

**2. Two loose bowel movements:** even if there are no other signs of illness.

**Exception:** This may occasionally be caused by new foods a child has eaten. Contact the school nurse to let her know about any non-medical reasons for the loose bowel movements.

**3. Vomiting:** Any vomiting is a reason to send a child home or keep a child home.

**Exception:** Sometimes children “spit up” due to coughing, sensitive stomach, etc. - this is not vomiting. Motion sickness (from use of play equipment or riding in a car or other vehicle) that goes away after motion stops would not be a reason to send a child home or keep a child home.

**4. Rash:** Any rash illness should be checked by a health care provider. Any fine red or blotchy rash on the face, trunk or arms and legs is a reason to send a child home or keep a child home. There are different rules for returning to school depending on the cause of the rash. A child with scarlet fever should be treated with antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to childcare or school. If a health care provider diagnoses a child as having Fifth disease, the child does not need to stay home if s/he feels well. Contact the school nurse if you have any questions.

**Exception:** Allergic rashes that are already known to the parent are not reasons to send a child home or keep a child home.

**5. Crying and complaining for a long time:** Anytime a child is not herself or himself and is complaining about discomforts; or the child is cranky and crying more than usual.

**6. Injury:** Whenever an injury is serious enough to need a health care provider’s attention, a parent should be contacted to take the child home.

## Caregivers should:

- Isolate children if they have any of the above symptoms.
- Wash hands well to prevent the spread of disease to caregivers and other children.
- Use a paper towel to turn off faucets and open bathroom doors and then dispose of the paper towel in the wastebasket.
- Encourage parents to keep children home if they are ill.

While not an emergency situation (no need to have the child picked up immediately), children with the following diseases should remain at home until successfully treated: impetigo, lice, pink eye, pinworms, ringworm, scabies, and thrush (candida).

*This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self -diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider.*

For more information, call your health care provider, your school nurse Tina Varney, RN at 517-826-7114 or call Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph County Health Department at 517-437-7395.

Visit our website at: [www.jonesvilleschools.org](http://www.jonesvilleschools.org)

Or the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention at: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)