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Melba R. Moore, MS, CPHA
Health Commissioner

Dear Parents,

There have been an increased number of children at school testing positive for flu or strep with symptoms including fever, cough, headache, not feeling well, and, occasionally, with vomiting. This is a reminder to keep your children home from school if they have any of these:

1. Your child had a fever of 100° F or higher at any time within the last 24 hours. Children must be without fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicines before returning to school.
2. Your child has a lasting cough or a cold with fever and body aches.
3. Your child has been diagnosed with a contagious disease. (Children may return to school once the recommended time frame of treatment has been completed. Ask your physician/health-care provider and school to determine when a child can return.)
Or,
4. Your child was sick with vomiting within the last 24 hours. (Children need to be free of vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school.)

Communicable (Contagious) Diseases: The school may send children home if it appears that they may have contagious illnesses. The parent may be asked to provide a doctor's note indicating the symptoms have been evaluated before a child may return to school.

- If your child has a fever of 103 or higher, a physician or health-care provider should evaluate the child.
- If you take your child to the doctor, please let the doctor know that your child's school is experiencing an outbreak of strep and influenza-like (flu) illness.
- If your doctor collects laboratory specimens, please let the school know (doctor's name and practice/facility), so that we can determine what illness is affecting the school.

Please call your doctor or the Cincinnati Health Department's School Health Office, (513) 357-2808, if you have any questions or concerns, or if your child does not seem to be getting better. A cold without fever should not be a reason to stay home from school.

Remember: Good hand-washing and properly covering your cough prevents the spread of illness.

Sincerely,

Melba R. Moore, MS, CPHA
Health Commissioner


Marilyn Crumpton, MD, MPH
Medical Director, School & Adolescent Health