

## **WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL**

Joni Knapper RN, BSN District Nurse

A parent's decision to keep a child home from school can be a difficult decision. No parent wants to interrupt their child's learning and for some, keeping a child home means missing work or losing pay. However, if the child is sick it is important for them to stay home from school, daycare and other group situations. Keeping a sick child home will help them recover quicker and prevent the spread of illness to others.

The district follows the direction of the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department in regards to all communicable diseases. Various illnesses have very specific guidelines for when students can return to school. We do ask that you vaccinate your children to minimize outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases like Pertussis, Measles and more. Some of our students are immune suppressed for various reasons and your adherence to the Immunization Schedule helps protect them and all of us.

A child should stay home with:

- Fever of 100.3 degrees or more and the child feels/acts sick. Please keep your child home for 24 hours after they are fever free without medication.
- Earaches that continue and have not been treated by a doctor.
- Rashes that have an unknown cause.
- Coughs or other ailments that are constant, keeps the child from participating in activities and causes the child to be uncomfortable.
- Nausea and vomiting the night before or prior to school in the morning. Please do not send a child back to school until they have gone 24 hours without vomiting.
- Diarrhea, depending on the cause, may or may not be contagious. If contagious wait 24 hours from last diarrhea episode.
- Any open, draining wounds that have not been treated by a doctor.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO CALL THE SCHOOL TO REPORT YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE AND THE NATURE OF THEIR ILLNESS.**